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OPINION METER

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DAYS

INSIDE



Heart Surgery

Former first lady Barbara Bush underwent successful open heart surgery Wednesday to replace her aortic valve.

NATION...Page 19



Three Idols

The drama is over for Nathaniel Marshall and Kristen McNamara on "American Idol."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 26

Lower Base new site of Saipan stray dog program. **PAGE 3**

Interior OKs reprogramming of \$700K for GTC. **PAGE 5**

'Delay federalization but not worker and investor rules'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Com-

merce wants the June 1 commencement of the transition to federal immigration to be delayed but is asking the U.S. De-

partment of Homeland Security not to further delay issuing the regulations on the CNMI-only transition worker program and

the CNMI-only foreign investor visa program.

"In order for businesses and the Commonwealth commu-

nity to benefit from any delay in implementation, we will need to know the parameters of those

See **DELAY** on Page 4

Aggreko contract won't be renewed

CUC to have 54 MW, power reserve for the first time



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, and Tony Muña, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., announce during yesterday's press conference on Capital Hill that Aggreko's \$6 million contract with CUC will not be renewed when it expires in September and the rehabilitation of engines are completed.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Contrary to earlier projections, Aggreko International's \$6 million contract with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will not be renewed when it expires on Sept. 11 as CUC now expects it will

be able to generate as much as 54 megawatts of electricity and be able to have reserve power for the first time.

These are based on a power plant rehabilitation timeline re-

See **AGGREKO** on Page 4

Grant writers needed for \$338.5M projects

Sablan releases ARRA booklet

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration is now actively recruiting grant writers

to help the CNMI apply for funding under the historic \$787 billion national stimulus package.

As of yesterday, the government has identified over \$338.5

ON THE NET

www.commerce.gov.mp

million in projects that could be covered, including power, water, wastewater and solid waste

See **GRANT** on Page 4

NMI pays lavish tribute to 'big guy with a soft heart'

He was a one of a kind and I can safely say that in the judicial circle, everyone had the highest respect for him.

—CNMI Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI, joined by Guam, Palau, and Pohnpei, paid tribute to the late Chief Justice Marty W. K. Taylor during a memorial service hosted by the Commonwealth Judiciary yesterday in the CNMI Supreme Court.

CNMI Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan said the Judiciary lost not only a great and true friend, but "an iconic figure who played a large role in shaping the jurisprudence of the Commonwealth."

"The passing of Chief Justice Taylor has left a great void in the

See **NMI** on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, left, and Celina D. Taylor, the wife of the late CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Marty W.K. Taylor, cover the holder of urn containing the late chief justice's ashes at yesterday's memorial ceremony at the Guma Hustisia (House of Justice) in Susupe.

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Local

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ordered Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and his co-defendants in the case filed

IN LAWSUIT FILED BY REP. SABLAN Fitial, co-defendants directed to file briefings

by Rep. Tina Sablan to submit their arguments by March 20.

At the status conference yesterday, Wiseman set the hearing for March 26 on whatever briefings the defendants will file.

"The filings should be complete by the 20th of March," he said.

Assistant attorney general Braddock Huesman appeared for Fitial and his co-defendants, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, and acting Attorney General Gregory Baka.

The defendants did not appear in court. Rep. Sablan came without a lawyer.

Except for Rep. Ed Salas, no other lawmakers were present in the courtroom.

Wiseman reminded Sablan that a similar Open Government Act lawsuit was filed by her colleague, Rep. Stanley Torres, and that the House's counsel provided assistance.

Huesman said he is happy to file briefs as well as a motion to dismiss the petition.

Huesman told the media after the hearing that it's an Open Government Act Request, which is a writ of mandamus or a request for an order to compel the government to do something. He said it is also a lawsuit requesting for damages.

"Before we can proceed to the writ of mandamus we have to determine whether the parties are all proper and that's what we are going to do in two weeks," the government lawyer said.

With respect to his plan to file a motion to dismiss, Huesman said even if everything the plaintiff says is true, "there isn't a cause of action against the defendants."

In an interview, Sablan said the next hearing will just address the technicalities that the defendants would like to raise.

On the issue that she has no counsel, the lawmaker said at this point she believes the information she has been requesting should be open to any citizens.

"The Open Government Act designs that citizens may do so without the assistance of a legal counsel. Unless unexpected complications arise that would really be beyond the scope of any ordinary citizen seeking information, then I would consider getting additional help from counsel," Sablan said.

"What I am looking for is what hasn't been opened to the public yet. And that is where the money is coming from, exactly which agency, what public funds were reprogrammed in order to finance this lawsuit. I'd like to see the contracts that we signed with outside legal counsel to pursue this litigation. I want to see how much has been paid to date. I don't think any of those records would compromise the CNMI's standing in this litigation," she said.

Sablan said she is very happy that Wiseman responded quickly to her lawsuit.

Sablan filed the lawsuit last Friday to compel the administration to disclose where it is getting the money to fund the lawsuit against federalization.

The congresswoman asked the court to issue an order mandating Fitial, Inos, and Baka to fulfill their obligations under CNMI law by making available the requested materials within 48 hours of the court's decision.

CDA seeks to lower its loan delinquency rate by 50 pct.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority hopes to pare down its current loan delinquency rate by 50 percent through extensive collection efforts.

CDA board chair Pete Itibus yesterday disclosed that CDA's current delinquent rate is 86 percent, which he described as "alarming."

"The delinquency rate is about 86 percent. The board believes that we can go down below 50 percent...and that's our target," he said.

With the appointment of new executive director Manuel Sablan, also a former board member of the agency, the chairman said they're looking forward to the enforcement of more effective collection efforts.

Once the target 50 percent is achieved, "that would be a great accomplishment," Itibus said.

"We will ask recommendations from the new executive director as to how we can further improve our programs and operation. We're open to his ideas, especial-

ly in terms of improving relationship with our clients," Itibus said.

The chairman said that although the board recognizes the difficult times and challenges facing businesses on island, Itibus said the existing interest rate for borrowers is still "workable at this time."

CDA earlier disclosed that majority of its loan borrowers are delinquent in their dues and obligations, noting that the 86-percent delinquent rate was reported in June 2008.

The agency has a total of 79 borrowers, not including guarantees of which 68 are considered delinquent in paying their obligation in a given period of time set by CDA.

As of June 2008, the agency has a total outstanding loan balance of \$16.6 million.

Previous records of the agency also showed that of the 79 borrowers, 64 have matured loans amounting to \$4.3 million during the same period in 2008.

CDA then recorded \$9.7 million in delinquent cash value, which translates to 58 percent, excluding guarantees.

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Lower Base new site of Saipan stray dog program

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

A space previously occupied by a garment factory in Lower Base was identified as the new site for the Saipan stray dog control program, according to Mayor Juan B. Tudela.

Saying he could not wait much longer to enforce a project that has been stalled for more than a decade, Tudela disclosed yesterday that the construction of a temporary dog holding facility is scheduled for this month and its target operational date is April.

The mayor's program was appropriated \$75,000 by Saipan Local Law 9-12; however, the funding was delayed

for many years due to the lack of resources.

The mayor disclosed that approximately \$30,000 of the appropriated amount will be spent for construction materials.

"It is my intention to use the other portion of the amount for the formal operation of the program," he said.

The Saipan Mayor's Office and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources entered into a memorandum of agreement in July 2006 approving the transfer of the DLNR's piggery building in As Perdido to the mayor's office, to be developed into an animal shelter for the stray dog control program.

The program was supposed

to utilize the 20-foot by 45-foot facility to keep stray dogs, with the pens to be converted into kennels that will keep five to 10 dogs.

However, due to lack of additional funding to renovate the building, work on the project was stalled until the mayor decided to use a public land in Lower Base for the purpose.

"I don't want to leave office without fulfilling this important vision...this program has been initiated by previous administrations but did not materialize due to the same funding issues," said Tudela, who is in his last term in office.

The mayor said the new identified site could also accommodate up to 10 dogs—the same target in the As Perdido project.

To reduce the cost of production, the mayor said four of his people were asked to build the facility and would assign a few more individuals for its operation.

"I am hoping to see this facility in full operation by April," the mayor said, admitting that if he waits for the completion of the requirements for the As Perdido project, "we may wait for another decade to build it."

Tudela said his office is currently working on the local

permitting from the Division of Environmental Quality and the Coastal Resources Management.

It was earlier learned that the conversion of the piggery facility into a dog shelter will require some \$500,000. However, since the creation of the Stray Dog Control Act, only \$75,000 has been allocated for the project.

'Long overdue'

Tudela recalled that the law authorizes both his municipality and the Northern Islands to capture stray dogs, charge fees for any dogs picked up, and establish a holding period before the stray dogs are disposed of.

He said that in 1995, it already was noted that stray

dogs pose serious health and safety issues to people. "That was 11 years ago. Today the problem has grown to even larger proportions and packs of hungry dogs run wild in our villages and pose a danger to school children," said the mayor.

He recounted that just last week, a Saipan Southern High School student was reported bitten by stray dog. The incident was reported to his office.

In 2003, through the collaboration with DLNR and Office of the Attorney General, the Dog Control Rules and Regulations were established. The Saipan Mayor's Office then printed application forms and bought dog tags for the project.



Tudela

5.1 earthquake shakes Marianas

A strong earthquake shook the Marianas region early yesterday morning. There were no reports of casualties or damage.

The Emergency Management Office said the temblor had a preliminary magnitude of 5.1 and hit the region around 6:30am, Thursday, March 5, 2009.

EMO said the quake's epicenter was located at 16.196 degrees north latitude, 145.744 degrees east longitudes.

"A destructive tsunami was not generated based on earthquake and historical tsunami data," EMO said. (Saipan Tribune)

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NMI

From Page 1

Judiciary, and for us, as well as his family, he is irreplaceable. For those of us who closely worked with him during his days on the bench, he will be forever in our hearts and mind," Demapan said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial described Taylor as a pioneer in the field of CNMI law, while Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo gave a special tribute to his "best friend" and "big brother."

Senate President Pete P. Reyes, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, and U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson also delivered brief remarks.

Guam Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert J. Torres and Guam Superior Court Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III came on behalf of their island's Judiciary as well as the U.S. Conference of Chief Justices and Pacific Judicial Council.

Others present at yesterday's ceremony were Republic of Palau Supreme Court Chief Justice Arthur Ngiraklsong, Pohnpei Supreme Court Justice Nickontro Johnny, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and members of the Saipan Municipal Council.

The Legislature and the municipal council presented Taylor's wife, Celina Deleon Guerrero Diaz, with resolutions honoring Taylor for his contributions to

the CNMI. Members of the Judiciary also presented gifts and ribbons.

Diaz, who was tearful throughout the ceremony, was accompanied by five of their seven children: Antonio, Evelyn, Theresa, Carla, and Randy.

'A humble man'

Chief Justice Demapan described Taylor as an easygoing man with humble manners.

"He was a one of a kind and I can safely say that in the judicial circle, everyone had the highest respect for him," Demapan said.

He said Taylor was a big guy with a soft heart and was always eager to help and teach those who were new or just entering the law business.

Demapan recalled that as a young attorney he was scared to death in his first trial before Taylor.

"Chief Justice Taylor, then associate judge, made me so comfortable, to the point that he completed the cross examination that I was having trouble putting together," said Demapan, drawing laughter from the people in the courtroom and atrium.

The Chief Justice said Taylor participated in a number of Supreme Court decisions that improved the legal system of the CNMI.

"He didn't sit by and passively watch our Commonwealth take shape and evolve into the just and progressive society we have become, but led the way by tackling tough issues such as privacy and civil rights," Demapan said.

Gov. Fitial said

'Pioneer'

Gov. Fitial honored Taylor for his pioneering efforts in CNMI jurisprudence.

"During the course of the Common-

wealth's political and economic development, pioneers emerged in areas of business and law and one such pioneer in the area of law was Taylor," he said.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo delivered an emotional but funny tribute to the man

he described as his "best friend" and "big brother."

Govendo met Taylor in Palau in 1976. In 1978, he and Taylor opened a law firm on Saipan.

The judge said Taylor has "humor with dignity."

"His heart was bigger than his house," Govendo said.

Govendo said during the time when he loved to write letters to the editors, it was Taylor who would suggest the titles.

Presiding Judge Robert

Naraja said that Taylor's legacy will continue to echo in the walls of *Guma Husticia*.

"Taylor was a man of good mind, a man of good heart, a man of good will," Naraja said.

Guam Presiding Judge Lamorena said Taylor always made him laugh. "A couple of times, I missed my flights."

Lamorena said Celina would sometimes get upset because Taylor would joke about everything.

"It was a fun time. I thank Celina for being a gracious host. I always remember their generosity," he said.

Judge Munson said Taylor excelled as a lawyer, but was "a regular guy," recalling an instance when a defendant who had already been brought to him was taken to then judge Taylor in the Superior Court for arraignment. Mun-



HAIDEE EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez present Celina Deleon Guerrero Diaz, the widow of the late Chief Justice Marty W. K. Taylor, with a commemorative resolution during a memorial service hosted by the Commonwealth Judiciary yesterday in the CNMI Supreme Court.

GRANT

From Page 1

projects.

Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, at the same time, released yesterday "The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the Northern Mariana Islands" booklet, which contains information about the funding included in the stimulus package.

The 34-page ARRA booklet intends to assist the CNMI government in accessing funds that are available to it in

the Recovery Act, and to provide the general public with basic information about federal assistance and funding opportunities to the CNMI.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, during a press conference yesterday, said the government does not have enough grant writers, that's why it is going outside of the government to recruit those professionals.

He said even states as big as California are also in need of grant writers.

The CNMI ARRA Coordination Office through the Department of Commerce is requesting submissions of

grant writing resumes.

"All resumes should include previous experience in applying for federal dollars, a list of grants to include amounts and agencies which have successfully been awarded, educational background, and fee structure," said the office.

All resumes will be considered for a work period of no more than three weeks.

The public is asked to forward all resumes to depcommerce.ada@gmail.com no later than today.

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada,

who also leads the CNMI ARRA Coordination Office, said it is now a matter of putting the applications together after they finalized the project list.

He said the CNMI is "right on schedule."

"It's not a matter of who gets there first, but who gets there first with the best products so we're putting in safety nets to make sure we get the best products possible," he said.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed into law in February, the CNMI is eligible for infrastructure funding in addition to indi-

son said when the defendant saw Taylor, he turned to his lawyer and said: "Damn! These judges look alike!"

Senate President Reyes said Taylor was a big man with a very humble heart who was highly respected in the legal profession.

"Marty is considered a Chamorro. He's very respected by the people of the Commonwealth," Reyes said.

Taylor was born in 1937 in Canada. He served as Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court from 1995 to 1998. Prior to this tenure at the high tribunal, he served as an associate judge of the Superior Court from 1989 to 1995.

From 1982 to 1989, he was the deputy public defender, and served as acting public defender in 1979. He also served as legal counsel for the Civil Service Commission from 1979 to 1980, as Secretary of the Board of Parole from 1978 to 1982. He was the staff attorney for the Micronesian Claims Commission from 1974 to 1976.

Former Gov. Froilan Tenorio appointed Taylor to the Supreme Court in 1995. He also served as a designated judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI, a judge pro tem of the Guam Superior Court, president of the Pacific Judicial Council, chairman of the Commonwealth Justice Planning Agency Supervisory Council, and chairman of the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission.

Altogether, Taylor dedicated 23 years of his life to serving the people of the Commonwealth. He retired as chief justice in 1998. He died Feb. 18, 2009.

vidual tax credits residents will receive.

But because the insular areas were unsuccessful in their attempt to allow the Interior Department to distribute their portion, the CNMI must apply and compete against other local governments for the competitive grant money. The CNMI will also receive a set amount of non-competitive formula grant money.

The list increased from 53 projects totaling \$270 million to 76 projects totaling \$338.5 million.

For a listing of all projects, visit www.commerce.gov.mp.

AGGREKO

From Page 1

leased by CUC yesterday.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and CUC executive director Tony Muña said yesterday that CUC's power plant rehabilitation has been progressing "very well."

"In fact, by September, when Aggreko power expires, we will have more than enough capacity to replace Aggreko power, plus provide reserve [power] for the first time. We didn't have reserve power before," Fitial said at yesterday's press con-

ference on Capital Hill.

Muña said that by March 30, the number of engines that will be operating will double, from two to four. Currently, only engines 6 and 8 are operational. By the end of the month, CUC will be able to bring engines 7 and 3 online for a total capacity of 15 megawatts.

On power plant 1 alone, CUC expects to increase the capacity from 8 MW to 23 MW, while the overall capacity for CUC assets without Aggreko will be about 41 MW, according to Muña.

Approximately 41 MW are needed to provide 24-hour power on Saipan.

CUC hired the U.K.-based Aggreko

International last year to provide 15 MW of temporary power to Saipan, which at the time was suffering from constant blackouts due to the poor condition of CUC's power plant.

Under the \$6 million contract, CUC must make a monthly payment of \$504,000 to Aggreko.

By June 30th, CUC expects to bring another engine online—engine 1—bringing the total capacity of CUC assets, without Aggreko, to 48 MW.

"By Sept 30th, the power plant 1 production capacity will increase to 34 MW, and the overall capacity for CUC assets, again without Aggreko, will be 54 MW," Muña said.

He added, "From a production standpoint, we are really moving very well and by the end of the year, we'll be in a very good shape."

Fitial said by September, six engines would be fully overhauled, plus engine 2 whose crankshaft is now undergoing repair here. Engine 2 will be able to produce an additional 5 MW.

"We were able to repair the crankshaft here. These are very expensive ones—\$1.5M apiece—on island. We have already prepared one crankshaft for engine 3; we will be able to repair the crankshaft for engine 2 very soon," the governor added.

Prior to the governor's press confer-

ence, Muña was in the chamber of the House of Representatives to update lawmakers on the current status of the power plant 1 rehabilitation.

Muña also cited the hiring of CUC deputy director Wallon Young, who worked on CUC's power plant rehabilitation timeline.

"With respect to advising Aggreko on June 13 as to whether we will need to continue their services beyond Sept. 11, we're confident that we can advise them we will not have to," he said.

In a few weeks, CUC will make a formal recommendation to the governor that it will be able to de-link from Aggreko by Sept. 11.

DELAY

From Page 1

regulations," Chamber president Jim Arenovski said in a letter to DHS's Customs and Border Protection.

Arenovski's statement is part of the Chamber's 13-page comment released yesterday.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in the CNMI with approximately 150 members.

With only three months before the transition program's effective date, DHS has so far issued only the interim

final rule on the establishment of U.S. ports of entry in the CNMI and the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program.

In its comments to DHS, the Chamber said the interim final rule "will cause significant harm" to the Northern Marianas, which is already subject to automatic minimum wage increases through at least 2015 regardless of the status of the local economy.

The Chamber group asked DHS to identify any technical assistance or other support offered to the CNMI under the rule, provide incentives to foster longer-term tourist stays in the Marianas, and identify with specificity the

additional layered security measures needed to include China and Russia in the list of countries whose citizens do not need U.S. visas to enter the CNMI or Guam.

Excluding Chinese and Russian tourists from the list of countries exempt from the U.S. visa requirement will result in \$339 million in lost revenues for the CNMI annually, the Marianas Visitors Authority earlier said.

Flawed analysis

It also said the economic analysis that has been relied upon by DHS is "substantially flawed."

DHS relied on a report prepared for the Canadian Department of Finance. "The CNMI is neither Canada nor a major developed country. It is not even a state of the United States," Arenovski said.

The report, according to the Chamber, also fails to recognize established statistics and instead relies on assumptions.

Thus, it wants DHS to reevaluate its reliance on the economic analysis prepared by Industrial Economics.

Less than 30 entities in the CNMI and Guam have so far submitted comment ahead of the March 17 deadline for public comments.

Most of the comments want a 180-

day delay in the start of the transition period, citing projected severe negative impact on the already strained economy and foreign labor, and insufficient time, funding, manpower and other resources to put the local system under federal control.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan and other officials have already formally asked DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano to delay the federalization by 180 days.

Yesterday, Fitial said during a press conference that he will meet again with Napolitano to follow up on his request for a delay.

Interior OKs reprogramming of \$700K for GTC

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of the Interior has approved Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's request to reprogram \$711,500 for the renovation of the three most dilapidated buildings at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

Office of Insular Affairs grant manager Faride Komisar, in a letter to CIP administrator Virginia Villagomez, acknowledged receipt of the proposal endorsed to the office last Feb. 23.

"Please accept this letter as the OIA's approval of the request as well as the project scope of work submitted along with the letter," Komisar said.

The money will be reprogrammed from \$1.2 million in

Capital Improvement Project funds allocated to the Public School System.

However, Komisar said that no cost may be incurred and no work may commence on the project until OIA has reviewed the submitted environmental documentation and ensured that all federal environmental laws and regulations have been complied with.

CNMI may begin work only upon OIA's issuance of the authorization to proceed.

Fitial announced the OIA's decision on the GTC project in a press conference yesterday.

GTC acting principal Charlotte Camacho said yesterday the school community is elated with the good news.

The \$711,500 funding, she said, was the school's original



HAIDEE EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, seated front row, pose with Gregorio Elementary School administrators and PTA officials after yesterday's press conference announcing the approval of the reprogramming of \$711,500 for the school renovation from the Office of Insular Affairs.

elementary School of the money reallocated to the GTC project. The chief executive is eyeing "re-runs" from the other CIP projects so he could return the money in June 2009.

GTC's Camacho said they hope to begin construction in June in time for the opening of classes in September.

Camacho said that GTC, with the assistance of the PSS CIP, have taken measures and made preparations to begin work on the critical renovations.

"Our goal is to complete all work during the 2009 summer intercession, so as to minimize the construction hazards and disruptions to the students during the school year," she said.

In order to meet this goal and begin the 2009-2010 school year on time, Camacho said the procurement process and acquisition of necessary certifications must begin at once.

Retiree sues Fund over non-payment of disability pension

A retired government employee has sued the NMI Retirement Fund and its board of trustees for allegedly refusing to pay him his disability retirement.

Michael P. Cody, through the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., asked the Superior Court to review the Fund's action.

NMPASI lawyer Jeanne H. Rayphand asked the court to issue an order declaring that Cody is entitled to a disability retirement annuity from the Fund starting Dec. 31, 2007.

Rayphand said Cody is owed 66 2/3 percent of the salary he was receiving at the time of his separation from employment, or \$40,531.

Rayphand also asked the court to direct the Fund to pay the amount to Cody, pending a final disposition of this matter.

Cody was employed in March 1989 as a civil service employ-

ee of the CNMI. He is a Class II member of the Fund because he was a Fund member prior to May 7, 1989, and did not elect to become a Class I member.

In November 2006, Cody applied for disability retirement in accordance with the procedure in effect at the Fund and in accordance with the directions of Fund personnel.

Rayphand said that in July 2007, the Fund administrator denied Cody's applications for disability retirement. Cody appealed the following month.

To date, Rayphand said, there has been no decision on Cody's appeal by the hearing officer or by the board of trustees.

"The hearing officer and the board of trustees have failed to issue a decision on the plaintiff's appeal and the time for making the decision has expired," the lawyer added. (*Ferdie dela Torre*)

request, as concurred by the governor when the principal submitted her request to the Education Board and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan.

Of the approved funding, Camacho said \$536,000 will be used for the renovation of Buildings F, G, and B, which house nine classrooms of the upper grade, while \$175,000 will fund the collateral equipment of the classrooms.

It was earlier disclosed that the school may be recommended for closure next opening if

no renovations are made due to safety and hazard issues.

In a Board of Education meeting last Feb. 12, only about \$400,000 was approved for the GTC project using the following sources: \$120,000 taken from the San Vicente Elementary School classroom project; \$208,000 in interest from general obligation bonds; and \$66,000 that was earlier earmarked for GTC's electrical upgrade.

Fitial has promised to "reimburse" the San Vicente El-

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UNDER PROPOSED HQC PLAN

Up to \$47K for school counselors

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education and the Public School System are proposing a compensation plan that would provide school counselors up to \$47,000 in annual pay based on qualifications and credentials.

In the proposed rules and regulations published Feb. 25 in the Commonwealth Register, the new salary rate, known as the Highly Qualified Counselors Requirements and Compensation Plan, would pay non-highly qualified counselors a starting rate of \$27,911 per annum. This comes with the condition that they obtain a bachelor or higher degree and has taken either Praxis 1 or 2 before July 31, 2006.

A starting rate of \$28,884 per annum is earmarked for counselors who have a bachelor's degree or higher and have taken both Praxis tests before the deadline.

For new employees beginning Aug. 1, 2006, or later, the board has approved the same compensation package for those who passed Praxis 2 and has proof of taking Praxis 1.

Current employees who have a bachelor's degree, valid certificate, and passed both Praxis tests will be provided a per annum salary of \$30,976, provided they have up to two years experience.

A compensation package of

\$33,289 awaits those who have a master's degree, are Praxis qualified, and have up to two years of work-related experience.

New employees beginning August 2006 or later and have four years work experience, a degree, and passed the Praxis tests will be compensated \$30,976.

Those with five years and above experience will get \$33,289, while those who have a master's or higher degree, Praxis qualified, and have at least five years and above experience will be paid \$35,837.

For counselors who have basic II certification, bachelor's degree, over two years work experience, and passed both Praxis tests, the approved rate is \$35,837, while those who have a master's degree, two years experience, and Praxis qualified can have as much as \$38,646 per year.

Counselors who have obtained standard certificate with endorsement, with bachelor degree and passed rigorous tests, and six to 10 years experience will be paid \$38,464. Those who have the same qualifications but have two to five years experience, \$35,837; and those who have 10 years and above experience, \$41,745.

Those with a master's degree, certificate of endorsement, and Praxis qualified will get \$38,646 if they have up to three years experience, while those who have four to six years experience will

get \$41,745. Those who have seven to 10 years of experience and have the same qualifications will get \$45,163.

The highest salary provided to an HQC is \$47,001 and they must have a master's or higher degree, professional certificate with endorsement, passed both Praxis 1 and 2, and 10 years and above work experience.

The proposed regulations state that new employees after August 2006 or later will be classified under the PSS HQC plan after two years of consecutive service in PSS and upon satisfying certification requirements.

Due to the budgetary constraints, PSS indicated that it will no longer implement annual step or within grade increases.

"Counselors will stay at the level set forth in the employment contract for the term of the contract unless the counselor submits proof showing full qualification at a different level," the regulation stated, adding that PSS will not grant salary increases for partial work on a master's or doctorate degree.

The proposal added that counselors who are currently earning more than the proposed salary grade will maintain their current salary level if they are Praxis 1 and 2 qualified.

The regulation would become effective 10 days after adoption and publication in the register.

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Submerged land bill in Congress draws support

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives on Wednesday passed a joint resolution supporting a bill now pending in the U.S. Congress allowing the CNMI control over 3 miles of its 200-mile submerged lands or exclusive economic zone.

House Joint Resolution 16-24, introduced by Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, supports and advocates the passage of H.R. 934 introduced on Feb. 10 by Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan in the U.S. Congress.

H.R. 934 conveys to the CNMI the submerged lands surrounding each of the Northern Mariana Islands out to 3 miles from the coastline.

"This bill, if enacted into law, will provide the CNMI with the title, rights and interest of the

United States in lands permanently or periodically covered by tidal waters for a 3-mile area extending from the shores of the CNMI," House Joint Resolution 16-24 said.

Local lawmakers also said the CNMI may benefit from this pending legislation entitling it access to this 3-mile territorial sea and exclusive economic zone in its surrounding waters.

The House resolution goes to the Senate for action.

Sablan's H.R. 934 is co-sponsored by Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo and Rep. Jeff Flake, (AZ).

Last week, the bill took its first step toward passage at the first hearing of the new Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife.

During the public hearing on the bill, witnesses, includ-



LIFESTYLE SHOOT

Creative staff members of *Nikkei Woman*, a full-color lifestyle magazine targeting career women in Japan, shoot on location on Feb. 28, 2009, at Coral Ocean Point Resort on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The Larry Nelson-designed course was one stop during the magazine's recent familiarization tour to introduce the islands as a suitable travel destination for their readership. From left, coordinator Yuichi Nose, cameraman Isao Yoshida, editor Miyoh Kurisu and writer Keisuke Izuka.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2 suspects in armed robbery at Tinian arcade arrested

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian police arrested on Wednesday night two of three suspects in the armed robbery at a poker arcade on Tinian in 2007.

According to a police report, investigators learned that the person who called police turned out to be one of the suspects.

Herbert B. Hocog, 30, a heavy equipment operator at Tinian Department of Public Lands, was arrested for robbery, conspiracy, and disturbing the peace.

Sylvan A. Laniyo, 21, was apprehended for robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, conspiracy, and disturbing the peace.

It was not clear yet whether the third suspect has already been arrested.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$50,000 cash bail for Hocog and \$75,000 cash bail for Laniyo.

According to Detective Melvin Monkeya, the robbery happened at Poker Club in the early morning of July 23, 2007.

Monkey said it was Hocog, the lone "customer" at the time, who called police about the robbery.

When police officers arrived, Hocog had already left the scene.

The cashier told police that two masked men, one armed with a gun, demanded that she open the booth's door.

After she gave them money, the two men ran out using the back door.

That same day, a detective interviewed Hocog, who claimed that he didn't hear when the two men entered and robbed the establishment.

Hocog told the officer that he only learned about the incident when the cashier told him about the robbery.

Detective Monkeya said he and Capt. Sylvestre Palacios

interviewed last Tuesday a witness who identified Hocog, Laniyo, and another person as responsible for the robbery.

Mokeya said that on Wednes-

day, they interviewed Laniyo, who confessed participation in the robbery.

It was the group's plan for Hocog to first go inside the arcade and

In 2005, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that the CNMI did not own the submerged lands. The ruling angered many people in the Marianas, who believed the court was wrong.

pretend to be a customer.

When all the customers had gone, Hocog, using a radio, signaled the group to come in. The group then divided the money.



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Pacific ban on plastic bags praised

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The United States Environmental Protection Agency has commended efforts by Pacific Islands countries to ban plastic bag use.

American Samoa is about to reintroduce a bill to ban plastic bags and Hawaii is considering

legislating such a ban.

Dean Higuchi, the EPA press officer for the Pacific, says legislation makes people focus on the issue but consumers also need awareness of their everyday habits and to be willing to reduce, reuse and recycle where possible.

He says plastic bags and plastic waste often end up in the ocean, in water ways and landfills, and the environmental impact is huge.

“Plastic bags that are improperly disposed of or manage to get into the environment can be very harmful

to our marine environment. They can actually get to a point where some of the marine life ingest the plastic bags and because they don't break down readily they can damage coral reefs—basically looking at damaging the marine environment through the situation where they don't break down readily in the environment.”

World Bank to fund Solomons hydropower study

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—The Solomon Islands government yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the World Bank for the construction of Tina Hydro Power Scheme in Central Guadalcanal.

This came after days of intense discussions between the World Bank, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification, Ministry of Finance and Solomon Islands Electricity Authority.

World Bank team leader Ben Gericke and Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification, Tione Bugotu signed the agreement.

This will see World Bank provide funding for a feasibility study at Tina river for a suitable dam site for the proposed hydro-power.

Gericke said the feasibility study will be in place by the end of May this year.

From the study results, a site

will be identified and more assessments, analysis and technical work will be carried out in relation to its economic, social, environment, and land issue costs and benefits.

“This project will involve a lot whole of work in the coming months,” Gericke said.

He said if successful a private company will be engaged to develop the hydro-power dam operations that will provide power to the Solomon Islands Electric-

ity Authority and to the rest of Honiara and surrounding areas.

Gericke said at this stage it is still too early to speculate on the magnitude of the project, especially on the cost.

Energy minister Edward Huniehu said the signing is a step closer to achieving government's renewable energy dreams and policy.

He said project is part of the Solomon Islands Energy Sector Project which aims to provide a source of renewable energy to Honiara.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 6, 2000

Bank assets near \$600M mark

While economic indicators point to flat growth, the Commonwealth's half-a-billion dollar banking industry is inching its way to the \$600 million-mark, indicating a strong financial infrastructure in the Northern Marianas. Bank assets registered consistent growth in each of the four quarters last year, reaching \$589.9 million as of end-December 1999, up from the previous quarter figure of \$571 million. Deposits totaled \$570.4 million in the fourth quarter of 1999, higher by about \$15 million from the quarter-ago's \$555 million. In the second quarter of last year, total bank deposits amounted \$554 million, inching upwards from the previous period's \$529 million. Total deposit demands for the Commonwealth government and other agencies reached \$19 million in 1999, while demand for private clients amounted \$133.8 million.

Consortium opposes revival of 80MW power project

An attempt by lawmakers to restore the mothballed 80-megawatt Saipan power project is courting yet stiff opposition as at least two leading bidders have urged Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to veto their measure due to questions on a provision that could eliminate competition. The consortium of Tomen, Singapore Power, Alsons and Tan Holdings Corp. wrote a letter to the governor to lobby against passage of Senate Bill 12-19 which is pending before his office for approval. The move followed similar action by Saipan Power Partners/Hawaiian Electric Inc. which appealed last week to Mr. Tenorio to junk the legislation it viewed as favoring front-runner Enron over the others despite it having a “more costly” bid.

March 6, 2001

Bishop warns against growing moral decay in NMI

Traditional values in this predominantly Catholic society is now besieged with the emergence of people whose diverse moral backgrounds have apparently brought about rapid shifts to CNMI's moral belief system. Bishop Tomas Camacho signaled the warning yesterday amid escalating concerns of what is perceived to be a growing moral decay in the Northern Marianas, particularly with the proliferation of prostitution in the Western Garapan district. “The moral values of the Commonwealth is definitely changing because of these people from different backgrounds. And we are sort of outnumbered, so the change is so rapid...because there is so few of us here,” said the Catholic priest in an interview with reporters.

DLNR lifts FSM food ban

Lands and Natural Resources officials yesterday lifted restrictions imposed on certain food products coming in from the Federated States of Micronesia. Following reports of complete eradication of cholera epidemic in the State of Pohnpei, DLNR Secretary Joaquin S. Tenorio canceled latest Emergency Order of Quarantine signed in February 6, this year. In a memorandum, Tenorio ordered the lifting of food ban after Pohnpei officials declared FSM cholera-free.

March 6, 2002

'No to matching requirement'

One of the primary issues that could be raised during the upcoming Section 902 talks with the U.S. government is removing the matching requirement for Capital Improvement Program funds. This is besides pushing for a possible increase in CIP funding levels, said acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente yesterday, who quickly added that this may, however, be tough. Although he stressed he will still have to talk to Gov. Juan N. Babauta on the specific topics that would be included in the Section 902 talks, Benavente said he assumes that his appointment will be for the Section 702 negotiations.

DLNR runs after boat owners with delinquent boating slips

With depleting government coffers and the economy reeling from a crisis, local agencies-including the Marina office of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources-are resolute in enforcing revenue generating measures, such as collection of unpaid bills from delinquent boat owners. Marianne Teregeyo, public information officer of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, said there are at least 10 boat owners who are delinquent in paying their bills in connection with their boating slips. Boating slips refer to designated areas given to boat owners to dock their boats at the Smiling Cove Marina, explained Teregeyo.



INVITATION FOR BIDS WATER TASK FORCE IFB09-GOV-057



Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the **ENCLOSURES OF ELECTRICAL CONTROL PANELS FOR WATER WELLS** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana.

Islands A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurers Clearance Certificate (ICC) issued by the Department of Commerce.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Hazard Mitigation Program and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from both OIA and FEMA.

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds with an ICC clearance. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Construct Building Enclosures for the Electrical Control Panel of each Water Well located in the various sites of Saipan.
- Necessary relocation of power drop line/weather head connection into the building enclosure.
- Installation and provision of new control panels.
- Installation of underground conduits from the new control panel to the well.
- Installation of a new chain link fence around the perimeter.
- Where directed, construction of an exterior concrete pad, extending one foot beyond the perimeter fence.

A non-refundable payment of \$100 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **February 13, 2009** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m., on February 27, 2009**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is not scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and address to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 664-2279, no later than 4:30 on **February 27, 2009**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to local bidders per Article 7 of the CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations.

Sealed bids must be marked “IFB09-GOV-057.” For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 16, 2009**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 16, 2009**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 16, 2009**, and must be received no later than **March 25, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **March 26, 2009**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **March 16, 2009**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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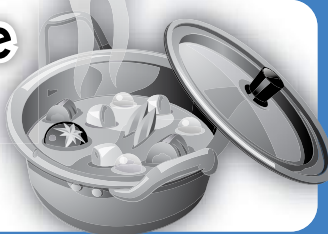
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Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Mad Max's Justice Department

Imagine a place where soldiers are entitled to burst through doors without warrants and citizens can be locked away without trial. Imagine that the leader of this place has the power to silence dissenters and the press and has the right to keep duly elected legislators from having a voice in these matters. Imagine further that he can unilaterally rip up and disregard any treaty he dislikes and that he has been told he is on solid legal ground by a hand-picked circle of advisers.

This is not some lawless Third World country or dusty fictional outback from a sci-fi movie but the United States of America, as described in a series of newly released Justice Department memos from the early years of the Bush administration.

Some of the ideas in these memos, authored by lawyers in the Justice Department's elite Office of Legal Counsel, have been known for some time, and later iterations of the Bush Justice Department repudiated many of the principles the memos espouse. What their public disclosure this week makes clear is how intellectually dishonest Bush-era lawyers were in coming to these preposterous conclusions.

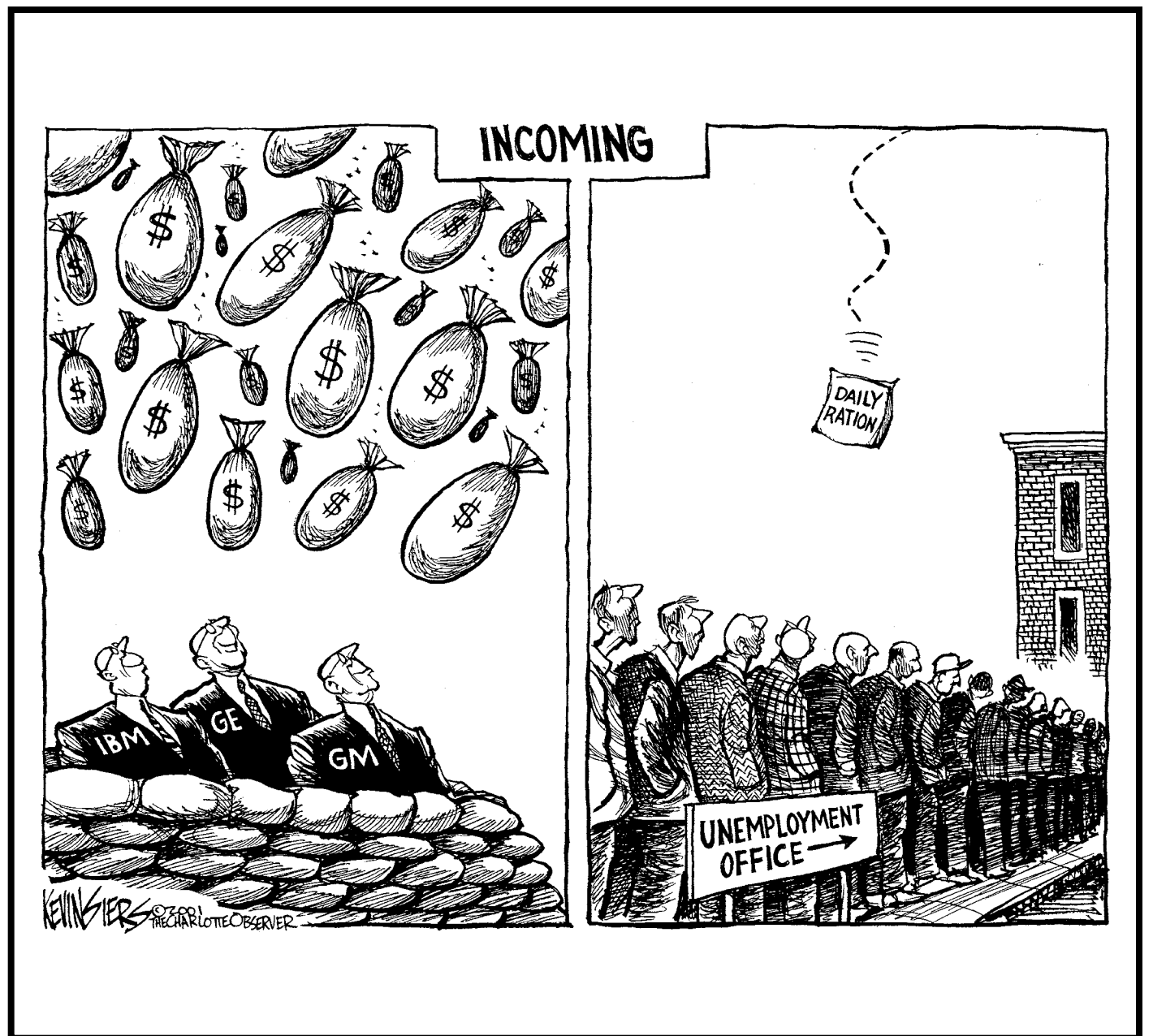
Many of the memos conflate and distort existing statutes and case law to give Mr. Bush the answers he wants. For example, a Sept. 25, 2001, memo concludes that law enforcement officers need not obtain search warrants to conduct intelligence operations inside the country. The legal reasoning: Foreign intelligence constitutes "national self-defense." In other contexts, courts have ruled that the use of deadly force in self-defense is justifiable under the Fourth Amendment. Therefore, the memo concludes, "if the government's heightened interest in self-defense justifies the use of deadly force, then it also certainly would justify warrantless searches." Never mind that Congress specifically passed the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act in the 1970s to forbid such warrantless searches.

Steven G. Bradbury, the last Bush administration lawyer to head the OLC, spelled out in a mid-January memo the OLC's ultimate rejection of the conclusions outlined in the eight OLC opinions that were released this week. He also explained that the original decisions were made "in the wake of the atrocities of 9/11, when policy makers, fearing that additional catastrophic terrorist attacks were imminent, strived to employ all lawful means to protect the Nation."

Fair enough. But those are precisely the kinds of circumstances that can lead even competent officials to embrace deeply flawed positions that lead to disgraceful results. And that is precisely why such opinions must be made public whenever possible or at least be shared with lawmakers with relevant oversight authority and appropriate clearances.

Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. took a step in the right direction by releasing these memos and by reportedly preparing to release more. He must now ensure that his own Office of Legal Counsel does not make the same mistakes.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



A few words of Tagalog

Although its economic coma will change things, Saipan is, for now, one of the world's liveliest linguistic crossroads. I tried to list the languages that you can encounter during a half-hour stroll; if you don't have an iPod jammed into your head, you'll be able to hear Chamorro, Carolinian, Chukese, Palauan, Tagalog, Mandarin, Korean, Japanese, Thai, Russian, and, of course, Bureaucrat (Saipan's official language).

And that's just the most common ones. Over the years I've known people from India, Nepal, Mexico, and Bangladesh who added yet more to Saipan's linguistic stew, so I'll let someone who is more diligent than I am compose an exhaustive list of tongues.

Would-be adventurers from mainland America who are contemplating a leap to the tropics (not necessarily Saipan specifically) sometimes ask me what the most useful language is. Since I have no expertise in any of the languages listed above, and I don't even speak Bureaucrat passably, I won't claim a monopoly on wisdom here. But I can share some thoughts.

Of course, what's most useful depends on your context. As for international business, the language of the future (and largely of the present, too) is Mandarin.

But for other stuff, as in general living in the tropics, or working as a professional adventurer, I vote for Tagalog as a worthy tongue. The mere couple of hundred words of Tagalog I know have done far more for me than the six years of French classes I endured. (I wonder if the focus of the U.S. educational system is less Euro-centric now than it was in my school days, but we'll contemplate this another time.)

I've crossed the Pacific several times working aboard merchant (fishing) ships. My favorite crew members were always Filipino, and they often managed to turn otherwise un-cheerful circumstances into better times. If you'd like real insights into a culture, join it on a small fishing vessel on the high seas, which is roughly like living communally in a telephone booth.

And as a pilot, in jets, helicopters, and regional airliners, I've crewed with many Filipinos as well, be they fellow pilots, or mechanics, or flight attendants. All over the Pacific, from Panamanian airspace to the skies over the Philippine sea, from Hong Kong to Polynesia, knowing a few words of Tagalog has enabled me to break the ice with a lot of people.

Still, my interest in Tagalog, I'll admit, is more along the lines of just knowing basic phrases, words, and being able to tweak a

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.



few verbs when I'm on a hot streak, which isn't the same as really speaking the language.

For those who want to pick up a few useful words of Tagalog, here's a dandy little book: *Tagalog (Pilipino) Made Nice & Easy* (Research & Education Association Inc., 86 pages, \$6.95). It has a few pages of general notes on the Philippines, which is a nice touch, and it's laid out in a very easy to read format. This is a very unassuming little work. The few photos (also a nice touch) are in black and white, as is everything else, but the humble utilitarianism has an honest ring to it and is consistent with its cheap price.

The book emphasizes the formal, respectful version of Tagalog, so readers will have to make the necessary adjustments for informal contexts, but that's easy to do. This is a mere word and phrase primer, it does not teach verb conjugation. On that note, I do have a stack of more weighty texts, but I have not studied them enough to have anything intelligent to say about them.

Anyway, as for *Tagalog (Pilipino) Made Nice & Easy*, I applaud the approach, perhaps because it's so rare: Succinct, simple, cheap, useful, and easy to read. It's friendly. It's not a pain in the butt. I can't say that about many language books.

Indeed, too many books (in all subjects, not just language) are just endless rivers of ink, and you need the patience of a fisherman to hook the information that you really want. Being verbose seems to be popular. Sure, that's fine for technical and professional works, and for texts, too, but a phrase primer should be usable when you're operating on two days with no sleep and leapfrogging from caffeine fix to caffeine fix.

As for the Commonwealth, many people are admirably multi-lingual. I am not one of them. But for anyone thinking about punting a stateside cubicle in favor of some shade under a coconut tree, a few words of Tagalog are a great way to unlock the magic of the tropics.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bond financing for the Fund: Bad idea

Bond financing to get the NMI government off the hook of its financial obligation to members of the Retirement Fund is not a good idea.

Excuse me, but I think there are those in the central government and the Legislature who don't think things through when it comes to believing that floating a revenue or general obligation bond will solve the dire financial crisis facing the Retirement Fund.

Can someone tell me why the Fund should float a bond (if that's what's being considered) when the debt such a bond is intended to pay is not the Fund's debt but rather it's the central government's debt.

If any bond is to be issued—which is a bad idea in my judgment—it should be issued against the full faith and credit of general revenue collections of the central government and not the Retirement Fund member's employee contributions. It's the central government's debt obligation to the Fund—not the other way around. Why should the members of the Fund have their biweekly monetary contributions to their own future retirement ever be obligated for use to service or guarantee bond repayments?

Investigative reporter David Evans, writing for the Bloomberg News Service, reports major problems among organizations which have issued bonds which were originally hoped to solve pension funding shortfalls but instead created more problems that it solved.

He cites the Chicago Transit Authority, which “issued \$1.9 billion in bonds. Before the year ended, the pension fund was paying out more to bondholders than it was earning on its new influx of money. Instead of closing its funding gap, the CTA was falling further behind.”

“Public pension funds across the U.S. are hiding the size of a crisis that's been looming for years. Retirement plans play accounting games with numbers, giving the illusion that the funds are healthy.” It's an old CYA trick. This “Alice in Wonderland Looking Glass” is used by governors and legislators as an easy way to get off the hook after contributing too little or nothing to their retirement funds, year after year.

Evans points out that “lack of funds explains why dozens of retirement plans in the U.S. have issued more than \$50 billion in pension obligation bonds during the past 25 years—more than half of them since 1997.” The so-called bond solution as a quick fix for pension funds becomes a future millstone around the necks of taxpayers.

Bloomberg News Service reports, “Retirement Fund managers don't have many options for increasing assets. They need adequate funding from local legislatures, which in many cases they don't get. Beyond that, they're at the mercy of financial markets.”

“Typically, public pension funds put 60 percent of their assets in stocks, 30 percent in fixed income, 5 percent in real estate and the rest in riskier investments such as hedge funds and commodities. That mix requires the non-bond assets to earn double-digit gains in order to reach expected rates of return.”

“The easiest way for retirement plans to increase cash is to issue pension obligation bonds. For the funds, that means borrowing money at no risk—because the bonds are backed by taxpayers.”

“A government retirement plan can't go bankrupt, even if it's insolvent because government treasuries must put up the money if a fund runs dry”, Evans points out.

For investors, these debt sales are similar to ordinary municipal bonds. Because both forms of debt are ultimately backed by taxpayers, credit rating firms give them high grades for safety. The difference for bondholders is that pension bonds aren't tax-exempt as are capital improvement general obligation bonds. Congress decided in 1986 that pension bond income should be subject to federal income taxes.

Reporter Evans observes, “Government officials say they issue pension bonds believing that their fund managers can earn more money from investing the proceeds than what they have to spend in interest payments to bondholders.”

I say, don't be fooled. Bond financing to solve the Retirement Fund's financial problem is not a good idea.

Even those taxpayers who are not members of the Retirement Fund should be opposed to a pension obligation bond. But don't

By WILLIAM H. STEWART

Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.



take my word for it; seek out and ask a knowledgeable, unbiased person—someone with “no dog in the fight.”

Also, if you are a retiree, talk to your legislator and evaluate the depth and scope of knowledge of those who exercise influence over your money and financial future, particularly those who think bond financing is a good solution to the Fund's problems, which, in the final analysis, the Legislature created. Ask if they have experience in evaluating and purchasing bonds.

It may be that bond financing will get the government off the hook temporarily but my instinct tells me not so with the taxpayer of the future.

Let's learn from the experience of other funds—there's no need to reinvent the wheel and learn the hard way that it is a bad idea. For those who want to read more of Mr. Evans article, Google: Bloomberg News Service and search “Chicago Transit Authority” or go to <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=alwTE0Z5.1EA>.

Editor's Note: The author has written more than 50 “op-ed” pieces and essays concerning the deteriorating condition of the Retirement Fund from the point of view of an economist. These can be accessed in the Saipan Tribune's online archives by entering the author's name: William H. Stewart. See also the Tribune's online archives for Oct. 24, 2008 for the article titled: ‘What's the Possibility of Bond Financing for the Fund?’

Letters to the Editor

On my vote on the budget veto override

“I will uphold and defend the Constitution...” is part of the oath I took when I was sworn in as a police officer. It was also the same oath I took when I was sworn in as an attorney. And recently, it was the same oath I took when I was sworn in as a Representative of the 16th House of Representatives, Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

The recently vetoed budget bill contains a section that requires that any hiring must be approved by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. Those of us who had issue with this particular section shared with the leadership that if the governor raised the constitutional issue of separation of powers and vetoed the budget bill, we would respectfully have to vote “no” on the veto override.

In the 15th Legislature, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reprogrammed monies from the Legislature and Judiciary. Rep. Stanley Torres sued Governor Fitial for violating the Constitution's separation of pow-

ers provision. Rep. Stanley Torres won.

If Governor Fitial deemed that requiring the Speaker and President's approval for hiring personnel was merely an administrative function and did not rise to a constitutional violation, then my vote would have been different. Instead, Governor Fitial objected to having the Speaker and President cross over into the Executive and Judicial branches by requiring approval prior to any hiring. He invoked the same constitutional protection of separation of powers as Rep. Stanley Torres. For this reason, I voted no on the override.

During the House session when the vote was taken to override the governor's veto of the budget bill, I did not grandstand. I did not bicker. I did not showboat. I did not play to the media. I did not slander my colleagues. I never called anyone names to their faces. Nor did I use fake names in blogs to slander their reputation. During

Speak no evil against authority, dignitaries

Some people make it a habit of speaking evil against authority and despise our dignitaries. A classic example of the kind in reference is the president of Taotao Tano, Mr. Gregorio Cruz. He is always complaining!

Can someone advice him that if he doesn't have anything good to say, please spare us our moments? Start talking about greater solutions than just complaining.

Greg, in case you do not realize this, it is not so good an idea to always be complaining, especially when you find yourself speaking evil against authorities and dignitaries, as you have been constantly been nagging like a cookie against Gov. Ben Fitial, the gentlemen up in the Legislature, and our Washington Delegate Greg (your kayu) Kilili.

Mr. President Greg Cruz, yes, you are entitled to your own opinion but you have to learn fast how to relate cooperatively to the concept of diplomacy. Please stop mocking our leaders for when you rock the boat, we are also in the boat and we are getting seasick already. I hate to say this, but you are acting like a boat captain holding the steering wheel that is attached to no rudder! Please Greg, can you just cool down the fire and maybe pop open a beer and relax and just be glad that we may only have but today. Maybe read a book like the Holy Bible so you can see that even God has something to say about people that are cookies (baby wanting a cookie)—always complaining. Read the book of 2 Peter 2:10, and Jude 1:8.

Thank you, Mr. Greg Cruz. If you want a rebuttal against what I have just written, please refer it to our living God. I was only quot-

ing his words.

Without complain, may you have a God blessed day. Si Yu'us Ma'ase. “En fin, Serafin!”

Alexandro Sablan
Dandan, Saipan

Depressing news

I just came home from the House of Representatives' session where they failed to override the governor's budget veto. The result: The CNMI still does not have a budget five months into the year. This is very depressing!

The six Representatives that voted no to override were given an opportunity to explain their vote, but none of them would stand up and speak. The people of the CNMI should understand how their government works; we need to understand why there is a lack of responsibility on Capital Hill. Five of the six had previously voted for the budget, but would not go against the governor's veto. Two “no” votes were from my District 4. They have the right to vote the way they did, but it is sad that the CNMI is afloat on the sea with no one but the governor at the tiller.

Frank Stewart
via e-mail

the 2007 campaign season, I was on a radio talk show when I was asked if I would blindly follow the party. I replied that I worked hard for my master's degree in Public Administration and law degree; and I was admitted to practice in the CNMI court and federal courts including the United States Supreme Court. I will listen and receive input from people, but I will not follow blindly. I will not surrender my judgment to independently make decisions.

It is that simple. I voted “no” on the veto override because Governor Fitial invoked the constitutional protection of separation of powers between the three co-equal branches of the CNMI government. It is not scandalous. It is not glamorous. It does not make headlines. It is simply a matter of upholding and defending the Constitution.

Rep. Joseph Norita Camacho
Floor Leader, House of Representatives

Call to action on monument






Laurie Peterka was one of those who helped get the monument from an idea to a reality. She has been asked what happens now by many of those who joined the movement, and she addressed the question head on. There are many calls to action in her recent letter—clear activities that each person may do to assist in the promises becoming realities. Despite your views prior to the declaration, all interested in the betterment of the CNMI need to put forth some effort to see some good come from the Monument. While I was against the Monument previously, it is of no consequence now—you cannot move forward looking out the rearview mirror, you have to look out the front windshield. I've spent the last 20 years on and around the ocean professionally and I'd like to contribute what I can in this effort. This is an open call to all those that were against the Monument previously to help make positive changes in the CNMI with regards to the Monument. Ms. Peterka has always had my highest respect, and we all need to address those questions and calls to action she wrote about. If there is anything I can do from afar, I'm confident Laurie will send me an e-mail and let me know. We can all help in some way, and it's our duty to the island and our future to do so.

William McCue
Wellington, Florida

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

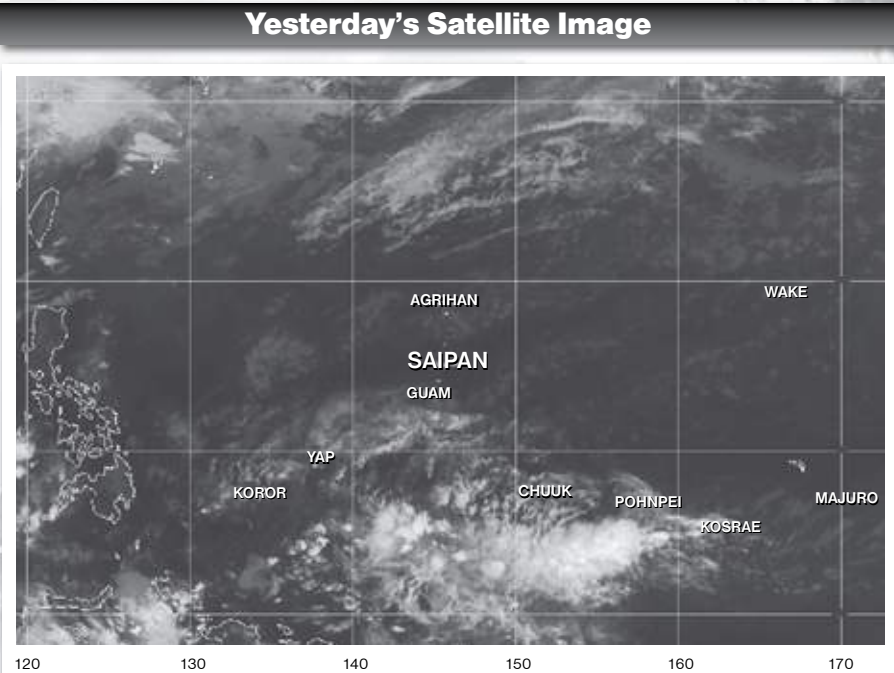
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84 ▼75
Palau	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲84 ▼75
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼76

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Rain	▲75 ▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲48 ▼29
Hong Kong	Rain	▲68 ▼59
Honolulu	Showers	▲74 ▼67
London	Cloudy	▲48 ▼39
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲64 ▼48
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼75
Melbourne	Dreary	▲70 ▼53
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲77 ▼65
New York	Showers	▲49 ▼41
Osaka	Showers	▲56 ▼39
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲48 ▼35
Pusan	Cloudy	▲50 ▼32
Rome	Rain	▲54 ▼36
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲49 ▼35
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲57 ▼45
Seoul	Flurries	▲36 ▼20
Tokyo	Rain	▲52 ▼40
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲61 ▼46

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
4:58 AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:17 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
2:01 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:09 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Favorable upper-level divergence along with two surface troughs, one extending along the equator between 130E and 145E, the other extending northward from EQ152E to 4N151E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Koror, Yap and Chuuk or south of line extending northeastward from 2N130E to 7N155E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Kosrae and Majuro within 100 miles of a line extending northeastward from 4N162E to 8N180. A shear line extends from 25N170E to near Anatahan at 16N145E to 15N140E. Extensive low cloud-cover and patchy rain with embedded scattered showers are found along and up to 125 miles to the northwest of the shear line between 151E and 170E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:31 AM	6:26 PM	Today	1:35 PM	2:06 AM
Saturday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM	Saturday	2:35 PM	3:04 AM
Sunday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM	Sunday	3:42 PM	3:57 AM
Monday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM	Monday	4:42 PM	4:46 AM
Tuesday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM	Tuesday	5:39 PM	5:30 AM

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
Saipan-Rota			Rota-Saipan		
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm 1,7	CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam			Guam-Saipan		
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am 1,2,3,4,7
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am Daily	CO9598	2:30am	4:00am 5,6 via Rota
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm 1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am	11:10am Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita			Narita-Saipan		
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am Daily	NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7	NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1 Daily
Guam-Narita			Narita-Guam		
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm Daily	NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm Daily	NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Osaka			Osaka-Saipan		
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am 1,4,6	OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm Daily
Guam-Osaka			Osaka-Guam		
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm Daily	NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			Nagoya-Saipan		
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1 Daily
Guam-Nagoya			Nagoya-Guam		
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm Daily
Saipan-Incheon			Incheon-Saipan		
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm Daily
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1 7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka	OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm Daily	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan			Busan-Saipan		
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai			Shanghai-Saipan		
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am 2,6	FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam			Guam-Rota		
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm 1,7	CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am 5,6
Guam-Palau			Palau-Guam		
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm 1,7	CO 954	2:30am	5:25am 1,2
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm 3,5	CO 892	2:35am	5:30am 4,6
Palau-Manila			Manila-Palau		
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm 3,5	CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1 3,5
Guam-Manila			Manila-Guam		
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 3,5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm Daily	CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			Manila-Nagoya		
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm Daily	NW 72	6:30am	11:05am Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			Hongkong-Incheon		
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm Daily	OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm Daily	OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am 1,4,6
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm 5,7	OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm Daily
Narita-Manila			Manila-Narita		
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm Daily	NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm Daily
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)					

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Local students to compete in math competition

Middle school Mathletes from Saipan, Tinian and Rota will compete in the 15th Annual State Competition of the national MATHCOUNTS program tomorrow, March 7, 2009, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe from 8am to 12pm. The competition is organized by EFC Engineers and Architects Corp.

A total of 12 schools and approximately 100 students will compete. Schools represented are Calvary Christian Academy, Dandan Elementary School, Eucon International School, Grace Christian Academy-Saipan, Hopwood Jr. High School, Marianas Baptist Academy, Mount Carmel School, Saipan Community School, Saipan International School, Tinian Elementary School, Tinian Jr. High, and Whispering Palms School.

Teachers and students have been preparing for the competition since last September. Students will compete individually and as teams in written and fast-paced oral matches. Subjects include algebra, probability, statistics and geometry.

The top 4 winners of the state competition will earn a trip to the national competition, which is being held at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort in Orlando, Florida, on May 8, 2009. They will be accompanied by the winning math coach.

MATHCOUNTS is a national program designed to improve math skills among U.S. students. The program focuses on middle school students, who are at a crucial stage in developing and sustaining math interest and ability.

Local sponsors include, Chongs Corp., Deloitte & Touche, DFS Saipan, EFC Engineers & Architects Corp., National Office Supply, Subway Investments, IT&E, JoeTen Charitable Foundation, Tae Woo Corp., Yonsei Academy and Dolphin Wholesale.

MATHCOUNTS' National Sponsors are Raytheon Company, Northrop Grumman Foundation, National Society of Professional Engineers, CAN Foundation, Conoco Phillips, General Motors Foundation, Lockheed Martin, 3M Foundation, and Texas Instruments Inc. (PR)



STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION ADDRESS

Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College president Ivan T. Mereb, far left, speaks to NMC students, faculty, and staff at the first official State of the Association Address held last week Friday. In his speech, Mereb addressed students' concerns regarding accreditation and students' rights. ASNMC, the official student body government of NMC, is a student-driven advocacy group that strives for student issues and concerns on campus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Armed robbery, aggravated assault

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on any of the persons responsible for the recent armed robbery that occurred outside the New Fresh Market in Chalan Laulau and the aggravated assault and battery that took place in front of the Leo Poker in San Jose.

The armed robbery incident took place on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, and was reported at 2:24am. Police learned that the victim, a

female Korean, was attacked with a 2x2 wood by a masked male individual in the parking area of New Fresh Market. The suspect was last seen running north and disappearing into the grassy area across the road. The victim suffered multiple complex lacerations to the back of her head, contusions and abrasions to her face and parts of her body.

The aggravated assault and battery incident occurred in

front of the Leo Poker in San Jose on Friday, Feb. 27, 2009, and was reported to DPS at 3:22am. When police arrived at the scene, they found an unresponsive male lying on his back on the main road. He was immediately taken to the hospital. According to a witness, he overheard screams coming from outside his home and discovered the man lying on the roadway. The witness also observed two unidentified male individuals running north toward San Jose Mart. The victim suffered major injuries and has been in a coma since the time of the incident.

Both cases are under further investigation. DPS investigators are requesting the assistance of community members to please call Crime Stoppers if they have any information regarding this crime. Anyone having information about these crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. (NMI Crime Stoppers)



B'DAY GREETINGS

Happy 3rd birthday Javan "Yoshi" Mendez! You bring so much joy into our lives! Love always, Mommy, Daddy & ate J'den.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Division of Labor

Second Floor Afetria Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0907 or 0911 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0992

PUBLIC NOTICE TO APPEAR FOR INVESTIGATION

The following Non-resident worker and Employer is hereby notified to report to the Department of Labor, Enforcement Section, 2nd Floor, Afetrias Building, San Antonio Saipan. This notice will serve as a "Proof of Service for the notice to appear for investigation". For information, please contact Investigator Jeffrey T. Camacho at 236-0900.

Employee	Employer	Case Number	Date/Time
1. Jin, Song Lin	Yum, Moon Jeong	CAC#09-069-02	3/13/09 @ 9 AM
2. Bederio, Sonny	Thomasa T. Ada	CAC#09-034-01	3/13/09 @ 9 AM
3. Gu, Xia #284968	Pang Hong Cabrera	CAC#09-006-01	3/20/09 @ 9 AM
4. He, Yuxiang	Md. Abu B.S. Munshi	CAC#09-008-01	3/20/09 @ 9 AM

Failure to appear at your scheduled investigation shall be grounds for default and may result in the referral of affected worker to the Division of Immigration for their action and sanction against the employer.

Date this 2nd day of March 2009.

/s/ Jeffrey T. Camacho



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STOCK # 4C416992

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STOCK # 4UA51928

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STOCK # 56395736

\$8,995⁰⁰*



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STOCK # 7PA31120

\$16,995⁰⁰*



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STOCK # 4N344875

\$13,995⁰⁰*



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STOCK # 5W222614

\$9,995⁰⁰*



2005 Nissan Frontier 4x4
STOCK # 5C411080

\$19,995⁰⁰*



2005 Kia Sportage 4x4
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Farmers, students learn about farming advances

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services' workshop on Soil & Water Conservation through Innovative Farming Techniques held earlier this week at the NMC-CREES Experimental Farm in As Perdido drew a crowd of 66 participants, as well as 82 students from William S. Reyes Elementary School.

The workshop, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Resources Conservation Services, was aimed at introducing farmers to new methods of raising production and profitability while conserving natural resources. NMC-CREES had been working on developing and refining these methods

over the last three years, and the workshop provided the outlet to present many of the findings.

"We chose to present the workshop at our Experimental Farm to give the farmers a hands-on experience with our methods," says program leader Lee Bowen, who is contracted by NMC-CREES as an agricultural consultant. "Farmers seemingly enjoyed the informal setting."

The farming techniques the participants learned about were contour farming with vetiver hedge rows, micro irrigation, no-till farming, mulching, alley farming, and tree/shrub intercropping. All of these techniques have the goal of not only conserving water and soil in the CNMI, but also of helping the



Dr. Dilip Nandwani, NMC CREES Plant Pathologist, gestures during the Soil and Water Conservation Workshop held last Wednesday.

are important to collect data on which sweet potato variety would be the ideal one in regard to marketability and taste.

"The public has to decide which ones they like most," Nandwani adds.

In her welcome speech, NMC Community Programs and Services Dean Felicitas Abraham praised NMC-CREES for their ongoing efforts to host workshops that help our farmers maximize profits and, at the same, conserve the scarce resources for the enrichment of the CNMI.

NMC-CREES officials were also pleased with the interest the workshop sparked in William S. Reyes Elementary students. Eighty-two students walked to the workshop and were treated to their own special tour around the farm. After two hours, they left with new knowledge on farming and bellies full of popcorn. Additionally, the students were given two neem trees, which they plan to plant at their school's own farm plot. Bowens hoped that the students' visit "sparked the interest to become farmers or scientists in some of the students."

Anyone not able to participate in the workshop is invited to call the NMC-CREES main office at 234-5498, ext. 1707 to make an appointment with CREES staff for a guided tour around the Experimental Farm. (NMC)

farmer save money on fertilizer and labor.

Arnold Route, NMC-CREES' Pesticide Safety Education Coordinator, introduced the farmers to his Botanical Pesticide project and gave out neem trees with which the pesticide is made.

The highlight of the program was the Sweet Potato Taste Tasting, which gave the farmers a taste of sweet potato varieties NMC-CREES is attempting to introduce to the CNMI.

According to Dr. Dilip Nandwani, NMC CREES plant pathologist, the taste sessions

NMC offers computer courses

Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering short-term classes to interested individuals who wish to improve their computer application skills. The courses are offered as part of the college's mission to provide customized, continuing educational, and professional development opportunities in response to community needs.

The classes, designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills, are geared around actual workforce needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers. For a more detailed description of each course, contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1005 or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

How to Properly Use a Keyboard (Keyboarding)

March 13, 16-18, 2009
Schedule: 5-8pm (Fri., Mon.)
5-7pm (Tue., Wed.)

Room: W-4
Fee: \$70

Understanding Personal Computers (PCs) and How They Work

March 19-20, 2009 (5-8pm)
Room: W-4

Fee: \$35

E-mail: The Best Way to Communicate

March 23 & 25, 2009 (5-7pm)

Room: W-4
Fee: \$25

How to Use Word Processing Applications

March 26-7 & 30-31, 2009
(5-8pm)

April 1, 2009 (5-8pm)

Room: W-4

Fee: \$90

Creating Digital Presentations

April 2-3 & 6-8, 2009
(5-8pm)

Room: W-4

Fee: \$90

How to Use Spreadsheet Applications

April 13-17, 2009 (5-8pm)

Room: W-4

Fee: \$90

CDI will also be offering its Customer Service and Administrative Training Courses in April running into May. For a schedule of these classes, log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

All interested individuals should register at least seven days before the first day of classes. Certificates of attendance and competence will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class. To register or for information about these classes, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call Les Ogomoro 234-5498 extension 1010 or e-mail logumoro@nmcnet.edu. (PR)

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TOYOTA

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Chamber to host tax workshop**

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a tax workshop for businesses next Wednesday, March 11, 2008. Ed Aguilar of Deloitte & Touche Guam and Edmund Brobesong of Ernst & Young Guam will be making this presentation, which will cover:

- Selecting the right structure for your business;
 - Highlights of business provisions and related tax benefits offered under the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009;
 - Recent tax updates;
 - Check-the-Box rules; and
 - Bona fide resident test/source of income rules
- This workshop will begin at 9am and will be held in the conference room at the Chamber office. The cost for workshop attendees is \$10 per person for members and \$20 per person for non-members. The registration cutoff for attending this workshop is 3pm today, March 6. (SCC)

Autism Society meeting on March 12

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting next Thursday, March 12, 5:30pm at the NMPASI conference room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For more information, call John at 234-8803/4, Larissa at 322-3761, or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. (PR)

Rota beach sites get green flag

The Divisions of Environment Quality has assigned 12 locations on Rota a green flag. None of the water samples collected and analyzed this week had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria. The samples also did not exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. Marine Water Quality Reports on Rota location are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp and www.cnmicoralreef.net. (PR)

NMC alumni meeting set

Graduates and former students of the Northern Marianas College are invited to attend the NMC Alumni Association meeting scheduled for March 12, 2009, at the Hard Rock Café at 6:30pm. The general meeting is for all NMC alumni (those who have graduated with NMC degrees or those who have earned at least 24 NMC academic credits) and will feature the presentation of the alumni logo, picture taking for alumni membership cards, alumni reunion event selection, alumni survey, and other important topics. (NMC)

ARC to host Super CPR Saturday

In celebration of American Red Cross month, Red Cross will be conducting their 2nd Annual Super CPR Saturday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Hibiscus Hall on Saturday, March 21. Participants fee is \$5, student fee \$3. The four-hour training is intended to prepare community members to respond to life threatening emergencies. For registration or more information please call the NMI Chapter at 234-3459. (ARC)

Commerce seeks grant writers

The CNMI ARRA Coordination office through the Department of Commerce would like to request submissions of grant writing resumes. All resumes should include previous experience in applying for federal dollars, a list of grants to include amounts and agencies which have successfully been awarded, educational background, and fee structure. All resumes will be considered for a work period of no more than three weeks. Limit to five pages of submissions. Forward all resumes to decommerce.ada@gmail.com no later than today, March 6, 2009.

Pale' Luis de Medina Council sets meeting

All member knights of the Pale' Luis de Medina Council No. 11969 are invited to the first organizational general assembly council meeting on March 10, 2009, 7pm, at the San Vicente Church Social Hall.

Grand Knight Jim Ripple Jr. said the meeting's agenda includes reorganizing the council, introducing current and newest Brother Knights, the monthly council membership dues collection to the National Supreme Council, and deciding what fraternal services the council will provide to the community as a respected local, national, and international fraternal and volunteer Catholic organization.

"All member Knights of Pale' Luis de Medina Council are asked to e-mail kofcmedinacouncilsaipan@gmail.com to provide us your valid work/home/mobile phone contacts, e-mail address, and the name of the company you work for communications and program activities purposes," said Ripple.

For more information, contact the following:

- Grand Knight Jim Ripple at 235-2302 or allparts@pticom.com;
- Deputy Grand Knight Donisio S. Camacho at 233-3283;
- Secretary Sir Knight Tony L. Taisacan at tontee-1122@hotmail.com;
- Financial Secretary John Oliver Gonzales at 285-6382 or kofcmedinacouncilsaipan@gmail.com. (PR)

MHS Class of 1970 meeting today

The Marianas High School's Class of '70 will be having an organizational meeting on March 6, 2009, at 5:30pm, at the Bicol Pavilion, next to Kilili Beach. Be there! (PR)



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2X4X16 - \$5.10	2X4X16 - \$8.70
2X4X18 - \$5.80	2X4X18 - \$9.70
2X4X20 - \$6.40	2X4X20 - \$10.70
2X6X12 - \$6.90	2X6X12 - \$10.20
2X6X14 - \$7.90	2X6X14 - \$12.20
2X6X16 - \$8.90	2X6X16 - \$14.20
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R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	
R08-023F	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	29549	RED	ACE-780	14,999	12,999
U08-090R	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	42193	BLUE	ACJ-553	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
R08-020F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	50052	RED	ADO-831	15,999	13,999
R08-021F	2005	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	68931	RED	ACD-510	9,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	7,299
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	9,599	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	10,999	9,499
U08-088R	2005	EPICA	AUTO	38057	BLACK	ADO-191	6,999	
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	29,999	23,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	10,999	6,999
U08-038T	2001	NISSAN MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
GM VAN								
R09-002F	2005	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	101951	WHITE	BUS-1231	9,999	
U08-092L	2005	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	78403	WHITE	BUS-1201	10,999	8,999
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MVA spotlights Marianas at Japan Golf Fair 2009

One of the top leisure activities attracting visitors to the Northern Mariana Islands took center stage over the weekend as the Marianas Visitors Authority and its industry partners joined close to 200 other exhibitors at the Japan Golf Fair 2009.

The annual event attracted over 45,000 consumers and representatives of the golf trade and media during its run from Feb. 20-22, 2009, in Tokyo. MVA Japan office staffer Nanako Shibuya and Vice President and General Manager Tetsuya Matsunaga of Laolao Bay Golf Resort shared information on the eight golf courses on Saipan and Rota. MVA also conducted a questionnaire, offering participants a chance to win a trip to Saipan.

"Saipan and Rota have much to offer the Japanese golfer," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Good golfing weather year-round, reasonable fees, and beautiful courses designed by golf greats like Greg Norman. It's a quick weekend getaway with friends, business associates or family."

Golf courses in the Northern Marianas include seven on the island of Saipan and one on Rota:

Kingfisher Golf Links (18 holes): Strong elevation changes and several blind holes make this course designed by Graham Marshall challenging, yet playable. Dramatic ocean views abound from both upland and cliff lines holes. A first-class restaurant/bar facility, a pair of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golfing in the Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan and Rota was promoted by the Marianas Visitors Authority at last month's 2009 Japan Golf Fair in Tokyo. MVA Japan staff Nanako Shibuya, left, and Laolao Bay Golf Resort vice president Tetsuya Matsunaga helped provide information and answer questions during the fair, which attracted over 45,000 participants.

teahouses overlooking the sea, and pro shop round out the amenities of this course. Laolao Bay Golf Resort (two

18 holes): Two courses designed by Greg Norman offer ocean views. The 6,334-yard East Course requires more accurate

play, with narrower fairways and four consecutive cliff line holes. The 6,805 West Course offers more expansive fairways but still challenges with blind holes and over water shots. A striking new clubhouse with a large pro-shop and a restaurant awaits players and shoppers.

Coral Ocean Point Resort (18 holes): This 7,014-yard course designed by Larry Nelson is highlighted by ocean winds and two tees over the reef-fringed Tinian channel. A small restaurant at the hotel and a snack shack on the course keep golfers well fed.

Marianas Country Club (18 holes and 9 holes): This course

winds around a plateau at 300 feet along Saipan's geological backbone, offering a bird's eye view of the shining Philippine Sea. While course is open, challenging elevation changes, a few very narrow fairways, and strategically placed flame trees and swaying palms balance more conventional holes and keep players engaged. A small, 9-hole par 3 course located near the hotel can be used as a warm-up, for practice, or to introduce new golfers to the game. A gift shop and a clubhouse-turn-restaurant complement this course.

Saipan Country Club (9 holes): Nine holes remain of the original short, narrow 18 hole course built for the US Navy in the 1960s. This executive course provides a nice tune-up for other full-length courses. Carts are not allowed so carrying or pulling your clubs is suggested.

Rota Resort & Country Club (18 holes): The lone course on the island of Rota measures 7,093 yards and is framed by endless ocean views and a lush jungle background punctuated by small lakes, interesting rock formations, and an occasional exotic bird.

For 43 years, the Japan Golf Fair has served as a venue for golf products and golf destination promotions. Thousands of consumers depend on the information they gather at the fair for making plans to play the game at new locations, either for business or recreation. (MVA)



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Electrically welded 17 gallon or more, 150 psi steel tank, 10" ASME lid assembly. May also be stainless steel.
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Air cooled engine developing 12 HP or more. Must maintain constant traction up hill and down. Variable speed throttle provided. Electric starter, 15 amp alternator and 12 volt battery optional.
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Twin cylinder non-pulsating, 18.5 CFR, 50% air reserve, with unloader. Force feed lubrication to all bearings.
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Paddle type.
- TRACTION**
Must be air-circulated, with new type drive rolls or positive drive.
- SPRAY GUNS**
Automatic, diaphragm operated, adjustable volume high speed types, square beginnings and endings, uniform application and perfect cross distribution, guns mounted on hinged side delivery on left side unless otherwise specified.
- LINE WIDTH**
Variable from 3" to 18" but regularly set for two 4" lines, 4" apart unless otherwise specified.
- GUIDE PLATES**
Air-curtains using exhaust gas to maintain keen-edged line.
- CONTROLS**
Each gun controlled by separate control valve plus master control valve controls for both guns simultaneously. Each gun is separately regulated by all-brass solvent-resisting regulators.
- GUIDE**
Adjustable, telescopic guide arm, suitable for chalk line or retracing with a 50" telescoping guide.
- CLEANER EQUIPMENT**
½ gallon automatic pressure cleaner mechanism with atomizing head. Flushes fluid lines and cleans spray head assembly of guns.
- BRAKE**
Manual with easy reach of operator's right hand to keep machine under constant control.
- AIR HOSE**
Twenty foot (20') air hose for stencil work.
- TRAILER**
Sturdy riding trailer for operator with platform of no less than 12" x 24", mounted on two 3.00x5 pneumatic tired ball bearing wheels with a track of 32", with standard foot brake.
- REQUIRED OPTIONAL ITEMS**
Intermittent skip line mechanism, paddle agitator, belt guard, transport trailer, 4" or 6" twin bead dispensers, hand gun assemblies, complete with hoses, right hand edge lining attachment, rotatable side delivery for curb painting, positive chain and sprocket drive with differential, air actuated clutch and hydraulic disc brakes, 18" airport side delivery, stainless steel tank and plumbing, electrical start engine and double tank for two color striping.
- DELIVERY**
MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

A pre-proposal conference will be scheduled and held only upon request by proposers. However, attendance is not mandatory.

Proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, second floor of the arrival building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2009.**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the Ports Authority to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. For additional information, please contact the Executive Director at 237-6500.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, PE.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 10, 2009

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-OPA-055**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 25, 2009 • TIME: 4:00 P.M.

**"FINANCIAL AUDITS OF THE COMMONWEALTH
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE'S CREDIT UNION FOR THE
YEARS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2008"**

THE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS AUDIT MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR'S MAIN OFFICE AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M., OR FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE, SAIPAN.

ALL INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. ROSS ZAPANTA, ANALYST MANAGER AT (670) 322-6481/2 OR BY FACSIMILE TO 322-7812.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERRED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MICHAEL PAI
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-057

"OFFICE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES"

OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2009 CLOSING DATE: MARCH 16, 2009

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax No.: (670) 664-8080
Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-058

"GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES"

OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2009 CLOSING DATE: MARCH 16, 2009

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax No.: (670) 664-8080
Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

**Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management**

Office P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7801
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu Website: www.nmcnet.edu

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: 09-002**

NMC FACILITY MASTER PLAN

Northern Marianas College is soliciting sealed proposals for its Facility Master Plan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. Article 7, "Local Preference" as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is available to local vendors in this procurement. For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: You may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anitac@nmcnet.edu).

Pre-proposal meeting: March 13, 2009 at 2:00PM
NMC Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Bldg L
Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. Northern Marianas College reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

/s/ Anita C. Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ Rogelio L. Madriaga
NMC, Chief Financial and Admin. Officer

Supplement Feature

CDD: Enriching lives in the CNMI community

On Feb. 27, 2009, a proclamation was signed by acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez declaring the month of March as Developmental Disabilities and Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month.

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, as mandated in the DD Act and state law, shall pursue to promote and guide public policy changes and create appropriate opportunities for new approaches in our service delivery systems islandwide.

CNMI CDD is proud to have enriched the lives of individuals with developmental and other disabilities by investing in grant projects that have created change in the areas of education, employment, housing, early intervention, transportation, recreation, and community integration.

CNMI CDD works with many public and private groups to identify best practices, new approaches, and collaborative ventures that assists, facilitate and increase the independence, productivity, and integration of people with disabilities in the CNMI.

We, the Council members and Council on Developmental Disabilities staff, are pleased to update the members of the community of our accomplishments to date.

DD BASIC GRANT FUNDING:

■ Program Performance Report for FY 2007 due as of December 31, 2007 (completed and submitted by the Acting Executive Director and Council Staff on December 31, 2008 before January 1, 2009 deadline given by ADD-ACF.

■ Program Performance Report for FY 2008 completed and submitted on December 31, 2008 before the deadline of January 1, 2009 by Acting ED and Council Staff.

■ State Plan Amendments due on August 31, 2008 completed and submitted by the Acting ED and Council Staff.

■ Revamped Data Collection and Financial set up system with Federal Sections to meet objectives and consistencies with administrative compliance under the ADD.

■ As of December 2008, the Acting Executive contracted a private company to revamp the CDD website to incorporate accessibility features that will better serve individuals with print disabilities. The CDD website will officially launch on March 26, 2009

■ CDD has restructured staff positions and hired Mr. Raymond Diaz as the Program Officer under CDD.

■ Re-structured staff position Administrative Manager for Ruth Pangelinan

■ Re-structured staff position Assistive Technology Program Coordinator for Christie Sablan

■ In the process of hiring a new staff for CDD and AT.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Priority Areas or Areas of Emphasis/

Target Goals, Objectives and Activities:

EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION:

Students reach their educational potential and infant and young children reach their developmental potential.

■ The Council and partnering entities collaborated to provide Crick Software Training to 22 participants, an AT Fair that serviced 59 participants, and JIT training for all PSS SpEd personnel.

■ The Council cosponsored a Family Forum and CNMI Service Provider Exhibits held on March 26, 2008. Eighty-three participants that consist of parents and families with children with DD, individuals with DD and individuals with disabilities, and twenty nine CNMI Service Providers attended. Data gathered will be used to identify three (3) barriers that prevent individuals with developmental disabilities and their families from participating in surveys and interviews and will be incorporated into the development of a reporting system that will best serve people with developmental disabilities.

Ongoing goals and activity.

HOUSING:

Adults with developmental disabilities choose where and with whom they live.

■ The Council and partnering entities continued to advocate to NMHC on improvement of housing policies that would increase the benefits for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities. Policy review was conducted with Mr. Kimo Rosario and Josh Sasamoto of NMHC. On December 3, 2008, the Acting Executive Director met with Mr. Sasamoto of NMHC to follow up on NMHC Program Brochures and information needed to incorporate into informational pamphlets that will inform people with developmental disabilities about available housing options. NMHC Program information was received electronically via email and thus will be incorporated into informational pamphlets that will be available in accessible formats on the CDD website.

Ongoing goals and activity.

■ The Council and partnering entities will provide training on developmental disabilities for NMHC personnel, private realtors and landlords during 2009 March DD Awareness Month. Training materials are currently being developed.

TRANSPORTATION:

People with developmental disabilities have reasonable transportation services in the community.

■ The Council continues to oversee the Call-A-Ride (CAR) Program. CAR is the only accessible transportation service in the CNMI. The CAFD is the contracted implementer of the program for FY08. In addition, the CAR Program received an increase in funding in FY08 from 90K to 121K as well as

two new buses, which will be available for use in 2009. The Council's draft of CAR rider guidelines is under review and pending approval of Council EC or program advisory committee. The guidelines are currently being tested through the CAR program.

■ The Council in collaboration with partnering agencies facilitated Sensitivity Training for members of the Community and Transportation Service Providers of Individuals with DD during March 2008 DD Awareness Month for the Islands of Tinian and Rota. The Council partnered with NMPASI on October 23, 2008 to provide training for twenty (20) participants from the Saipan City Taxi Association.

QUALITY ASSURANCE:

Quality assurance systems contribute to and protect self-determination, inde-

Technical Assistance may be needed in the areas of policy development and legislative resources. The efforts of the Autism Society of the CNMI (ASCNMI) has brought forth many other populations of individuals with various disabilities to voice out their needs for a system of care or improved services. The needs of Individuals with Disabilities and their families are starting to be listened to due to the collaborative efforts of the DD Network and the ASCNMI.

Assistive Technology Program

September 2008 through present:

■ Assistive Technology Program Coordinator, Christie Sablan

■ The Executive Director and Program Coordinator for the Assistive Technology Program is currently working on submitted the new 3-Year



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez speaks before signing the proclamation declaring the month of March as Developmental Disabilities and Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month.

pendence, productivity, integration and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in facets of community life.

■ The Council partnered with NMPASI to provide Self-Advocacy Training CNMI-Wide for 192 participants during March 2008 DD Awareness Month.

■ The Council continues to educate CNMI citizens and CNMI legislators regarding current developmental disability-related issues by providing Resiliency Training to 105 participants; providing training on Parenting Issues/Common Childhood Disorders to 71 participants; providing Child Care & Licensing Program to 34 participants; and sponsoring Interagency Training for 117 participants.

Ongoing goals and activity.

■ A system of care is currently being explored by the DD Network Partners (CDD, NMC-UCEDD, and NMPASI). The Council will be the primary source for policy development for legislation addressing the needs of children with Autism and their families. Collaboration between the DD Network and the Autism Society has been excellent.

Assistive Technology State Plan.

■ On February 11 to 13, 2009, the ED and AT Program Coordinator met with the Guam System on Assistive Technology for technical assistance on revamping the Trankilu AFP in the CNMI.

■ CDD has entered into an MOA with the Northern Marianas College - Community Development Institute who will serve as the community based organization (CBO) that will administer the Trankilu Alternative Financing Loan Program

■ CDD has extensively provided assistance through a short term and long term loans of AT devices to Consumers, Service Providers, and Public School System. Such At devices are as follows; UbiDuo Communication Device, Bariatric Wheelchair, Manual Wheelchair, Adult Walker, Laptop computer with specialized software, Portable ramp, Crutches, and Power Scooters.

Call-A-Ride Program:

The CNMI Council on DD temporar-

ily took over the Call-a-Ride Program from the previous contractor who terminated the MOU to operate the program as of September 12, 2008. In November of 2008, PSS notified the Council of errors found in the monthly reports that were submitted to PSS from September 30, 2007 to August 2008. In addition, PSS notified the Council that the FY 2009 funding from the Federal USDOT-FTA grant that is sub-granted to the Council for Call-a-Ride Program will not be released until the resubmitted reports have been reviewed by the Commissioner of Education. The Council was given a two and half month deadline to make the necessary changes.

Council staff was assigned to make the necessary corrections to the monthly reports that will be resubmitted on or before the deadline set by PSS.

■ On February 3, 2009 the Council resubmitted revised reports from September 30, 2007 to August 2007 to PSS Commissioner before deadline.

■ Mrs. Rita A. Sablan, PSS Commissioner of Education is currently reviewing submitted reports.

■ The Council is in the currently working on an RFP to bid out the Call-a-Ride Program.

■ Continuously providing services through the Call-a-ride Program.

FS-360 Grant:

A majority of the members of the Council decided by unanimous vote of those members present at the October 3, 2008 meeting to award a sub-grant of the Family Support 360 project to the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), a non-profit entity organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI). In doing so, the council opted not to renew its MOA / sub-grant award to CAFD. As of December 2008, the Family Hope Center is operational and Systems Navigators are available to assist clients.

As Chairperson of the Council, Marissa F. Guerrero, I would like to thank the Council on Developmental Disabilities and its staff for their commitment and dedication to individuals with developmental disabilities.

To our partners of the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System, thank you for your continued support and dedication in advocating and promoting independence, productivity, self-determination, integration and inclusion of individuals of developmental disabilities throughout the CNMI.

And to the members of the Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability Policy and Programs Special Assistant to the Governor, Mr. Thomas Camacho, the parents, children, and adults with developmental disabilities, and organizations, we are prepared and look forward to working with you on the important issues and challenges ahead.

The American Dream belongs to everyone!

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK INC.,
Plaintiff,

vs.

JOAQUIN HOASHI BORJA,
ANTONIO S. BORJA,
Defendants.

Civil
Action
No.
07-0338CV

AMENDED
NOTICE OF
SALE

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 12, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants, in and to the following properties:

Lot 006 T 24, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No.006 T 01, the original of which was recorded on September 07, 1983 as Document No. 18011 at the Land Registry Office, Saipan, CMNI, and

Lot No. 057 T 126, containing an area of 10,000 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 057 T 03, the original of which was recorded on May 07, 1990 as Document No. 90-1771 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CMNI.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on **March 10, 2009**, at the hour of **9:30 a.m.** at the Reception Area, Superior Court, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sale, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law office of James S. Sirok, 3rd Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, or mailed to him at P.O. Box 502145, Saipan, MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

e. **Minimum Bid.** Plaintiff has set a minimum bid in this matter at \$40,000.00.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of James S. Sirok, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. **Court Approval.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted, and a Certificate of Sale will be issued thereafter.

d. **Removal or Storage of Personal Property.** The successful bidder shall have one (1) working day after court approval of the sale to remove any personal property purchased from the place of sale. After the expiration of this 24-hour period, the successful bidder shall bear the entire risk of loss of or damage to such property, and shall be liable for all expenses of caring for and/or storing such property.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 25th day of February 2009.

/s/ JAMES S. SIROK
Attorney for Plaintiff
Bar No. F-0124

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK INC.,
Plaintiff,

vs.

MANUEL QUITANO,
CAMACHO,
Defendants.

Civil
Action
No.
07-0337CV

AMENDED
NOTICE OF
SALE

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 12, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants, in and to the following properties:

Lot 002 G 264, containing an area pf 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No.002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990 as Document No. 90-1904 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, CMNI.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on **March 11, 2009**, at the hour of **10:30 a.m.** at the Law Library Reception Area, Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sale, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law office of James S. Sirok, 3rd Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, or mailed to him at P.O. Box 502145, Saipan, MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

e. **Minimum Bid.** Plaintiff has set a minimum bid in this matter at \$45,000.00.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of James S. Sirok, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. **Court Approval.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted, and a Certificate of Sale will be issued thereafter.

d. **Removal or Storage of Personal Property.** The successful bidder shall have one (1) working day after court approval of the sale to remove any personal property purchased from the place of sale. After the expiration of this 24-hour period, the successful bidder shall bear the entire risk of loss of or damage to such property, and shall be liable for all expenses of caring for and/or storing such property.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 25th day of February 2009.

/s/ JAMES S. SIROK
Attorney for Plaintiff
Bar No. F-0124

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK INC.,
Plaintiff,

vs.

RAYMOND DUENAS DIAZ,
JENNY ARRIOLA DIAZ &
JOSEPH ALDAN ARRIOLA,
Defendants.

Civil
Action
No.
07-0249E

AMENDED
NOTICE OF
SALE

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 12, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following properties:

Lot 349 R 06 (formerly part of Lot 349 R 05, which was part of Lot 394 R 03, which was part of original Lot 349 R 01), containing an area of 1,000 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 349 R 03, the original of which was recorded on December 06, 1999 as Document No. 99-2880 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CMNI, and

Lot No. H-316-18, (part of original Lot H-316), containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2065/91, the original of which was recorded on January 07, 1991 as Document No. 91-137 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CMNI, and

Lot No. H-316-A-1, (part of original Lot H-316), containing an area of 1,049 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Island Survey Service Company Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 1008/75, the original of which is dated May 28, 1975.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on **March 11, 2009**, at the hour of **10:30 a.m.** at the Law Library Reception Area, Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sale, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law office of James S. Sirok, 3rd Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, or mailed to him at P.O. Box 502145, Saipan, MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

e. **Minimum Bid.** Plaintiff has set a minimum bid in this matter at \$200,000.00.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of James S. Sirok, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. **Court Approval.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted, and a Certificate of Sale will be issued thereafter.

d. **Removal or Storage of Personal Property.** The successful bidder shall have one (1) working day after court approval of the sale to remove any personal property purchased from the place of sale. After the expiration of this 24-hour period, the successful bidder shall bear the entire risk of loss of or damage to such property, and shall be liable for all expenses of caring for and/or storing such property.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 25th day of February 2009.

/s/ JAMES S. SIROK
Attorney for Plaintiff
Bar No. F-0124

Business

Obama's tax deduction plan opposed

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's proposal to limit itemized tax deductions for high earners is running into opposition from key Democrats in Congress who worry that charities and the housing market would be hurt. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus questioned Wednesday whether the proposal was viable, a day after his House counterpart also expressed reservations.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said tax increases on families making more than \$250,000 a year are necessary to make a down payment on health care reform and to limit future budget deficits. But, he said, he was willing to work with lawmakers on proposals they objected to.

"We recognize there are other ways to do this," Geithner told the Finance Committee.

Baucus, a Montana Democrat, said he thought the administration would be flexible on the proposal. "They want health care reform as much as I do," he told reporters.

Geithner and White House budget director Peter Orszag returned to Capitol Hill on Wednesday for a second day of hearings on Obama's \$3.6 trillion tax and spending proposal. Both faced tough questions about the tax package.

Obama's budget calls for setting aside \$634 billion over the next 10 years as a down payment on health care reform. Half the money would come from tax increases on upper-income earners; the other half from cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

Obama's budget calls for two tax increases on couples making more than \$250,000 and individuals making more than \$200,000. He wants to increase the top tax rates from 35 percent to 39.6 percent by allowing a tax cut enacted under President George W. Bush to expire in 2011.

He also wants to limit the deductions those families can claim for charitable donations, mortgage interest and state and local taxes.

Without the new limits, a taxpayer in the proposed 39.6 percent tax bracket could save \$396 in taxes from a \$1,000 reduction in taxable income. Obama wants to limit deductions to the 28 percent bracket, meaning the same taxpayer would save only \$280.

The higher tax rates are a good bet to become law because Obama campaigned on the change and Congress would not have to do anything to enact them. Once the Bush tax cuts expire at the end of 2010, the higher rates would take effect.

But some key Democrats are wary of limiting deductions.

"I don't want to prejudice anything, but it is certainly one that I am having difficulties with," said Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J.

Housing aid plan leaves out many

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration's housing plan is intended to help 9 million struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure, but it leaves out tens of thousands of borrowers in the most battered housing markets who won't qualify because their homes have lost too much value.

The \$75 billion program detailed Wednesday offers refinanced mortgages or modified loans with lower monthly payments. Yet its refinancing plan is limited to borrowers who owe up to 5 percent more than their home's current value. Loan modifications are unlikely for severely "underwater" borrowers.

In the California cities of Stockton, Modesto and Merced, more than one out of every 10 homeowners with a mortgage won't qualify for any help because they owe more than 50 percent more than their house's current value, according to data from real-estate Web site Zillow.com.

The plan doesn't help homeowners in states "that are at the epicenter of the housing debacle," said Greg McBride, a senior financial analyst at Bankrate.com.

The ineligible households are concentrated in California, Florida, Nevada and Arizona, but can also be found in struggling cities such as Detroit and Grand Rapids, Mich. Even houses in the outlying suburbs of the nation's capital, where the economy is relatively healthy, have dropped substantially in value.

For a homeowner who borrowed \$380,000 and now has a house worth \$270,000, "I just don't know what you do with that," said Jared Martin, a mortgage broker in Bethesda, Md.

Government officials acknowledge that the initiatives are only a partial fix for a sweeping problem that has helped plunge the U.S. economy into the worst recession in decades.

"This is not going to save every person's home," said Robert Gibbs, the White House press secretary. "The plan is not intended to ... augment somebody's loan for a house that they couldn't afford under any economic situation, good or bad."

NY AG to question 7 Merrill execs about bonuses

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York attorney general's office on Wednesday subpoenaed seven former Merrill Lynch & Co. executives as part of its ongoing investigation into the timing of year-end payments made to executives at the investment bank. New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo subpoenaed Andrea Orcel, David Sobotka, Peter Kraus, Thomas Montag, David Gu, David Goodman and Fares Noujaim. The seven were identified in a Wall Street Journal report Wednesday as executives who received some of the largest bonuses at Merrill just days before it was taken over by Bank of America Corp. and weeks ahead of announcing the company lost more than \$15 billion in the fourth quarter. Merrill paid out \$3.6 billion in bonuses to top executives in December, with 14 employees receiving bonuses of \$10 million or more.

Stocks jump after 5 days of heavy selling

NEW YORK (AP)—Stocks broke a five-day losing streak Wednesday as hope spread that China and the U.S. are taking convincing action to restart their economies. Prices for key commodities such as oil and metals also soared, lifting shares of industrial companies like Alcoa Inc. and Caterpillar Inc. Speculation that China will unveil more government spending this week on major construction projects drove up worldwide prices for raw materials and the companies that produce them. In Washington, the Obama administration announced details of a plan that could help strug-

Oil hovers near \$45 amid a drop in US inventories

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered near \$45 a barrel Thursday in Asia after U.S. crude inventories fell, suggesting demand may have stabilized after falling for months. Benchmark crude for April delivery fell 29 cents to \$45.09 a barrel by midday in Singapore on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices rose \$3.73 on Wednesday to settle at \$45.38 a barrel after the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration said crude inventories fell for a second week in three, halting a trend over the previous six weeks that saw stocks jump more than 30 million barrels.

Nation

Senate votes to preserve earmarks in spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Democrats on Wednesday preserved pet projects sought by a lobbying firm under federal investigation and tried to nail down support for big domestic spending increases in hopes of passing a wrap-up budget bill by week’s end. Democrats defeated, by a 52-43 vote, an amendment to strip 13 projects that the PMA Group has pressed for. The firm, now disbanded, is accused of illegally using straw donors to funnel campaign cash to lawmakers.

At the same time, Democrats sought a few GOP votes for the \$410 billion bill after two Democrats came out against it over the cost and two more threatened to withhold support over changes in U.S. policy toward Cuba.

Democrats and their allies control 58 seats in the Senate, but 60 votes will be needed to

close debate and free the measure so President Barack Obama can sign it. Democrats probably will need votes from perhaps five or six Republicans if the measure is to pass Thursday night or Friday.

Democratic leaders were cautiously optimistic Wednesday night they could do just that. Passage would allow lawmakers in both parties to get the thousands of pet projects they crave and award above-inflation budget increases for education, nutrition programs, transportation and foreign aid.

The spending bill wraps together the budgets for 12 Cabinet departments and other agencies. The measure was written mostly over the course of last year, before projected deficits quadrupled and Obama’s economic recovery bill left many of the same spending accounts

swimming in cash.

The White House promises Obama will sign the bill despite unhappiness over the 8,000 or so homestate pet projects.

Democrats Evan Bayh of Indiana and Russ Feingold of Wisconsin said they will vote against the bill; both urged Obama to veto it.

“There’s just a disconnect between what people are having to go through in their daily lives—tightening their belts, economizing where they can—and what they see the government is doing,” Bayh said in an interview. “I just think it’s tone deaf and, substantively, we do need to get the deficit under control.”

Democratic leaders appeared to be holding onto other Democrats, and some GOP leaders acknowledged that the bill is going to pick up GOP votes that would prove critical.

Rove, Miers to testify in prosecutor firings

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former top Bush aides Karl Rove and Harriet Miers agreed Wednesday to testify before Congress under oath about the firings of U.S. attorneys, a controversy involving allegations of political interference that grew into a constitutional standoff between two branches of government.

The Bush White House had fought attempts to force Rove and Miers to testify, and the agreement—steered by aides to

President Barack Obama—ended that dispute. Both the White House and lawmakers, especially now that Democrat Obama has replaced Republican George W. Bush—were leery of having a judge settle the question about the limits of executive privilege, for fear of losing.

The agreement calls for Rove and Miers, Bush’s top political adviser and White House counsel, to be interviewed by the House Judiciary Committee in closed depositions “under the

penalty for perjury,” said House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers, D-Mich. The committee says it also might call the two for public testimony.

The arrangement ends a lawsuit over whether former White House aides could be forced to testify about matters on which they advised the president. Bush had ordered Rove and Miers not to testify in the U.S. attorneys investigation, and the Judiciary Committee sued a year ago.

Barbara Bush rests comfortably after heart surgery

HOUSTON (AP)—Former first lady Barbara Bush underwent successful open heart surgery Wednesday to replace her aortic valve, a family spokesman said.

The surgery at The Methodist Hospital lasted about 2 1/2 hours and was scheduled last week after Bush experienced a shortness of breath, spokesman

Jim McGrath said.

He said doctors determined the aortic valve had started to harden.

Dr. Gerald Lawrie, a heart surgeon at the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, replaced the valve with a biologic valve, the hospital said in a statement.

“I expect her to recover fully

and soon resume her normal activities,” Lawrie said.

Former President George H.W. Bush was at the hospital with his wife, who was resting comfortably in the intensive care unit. The hospital said the former first lady was expected to be released in seven to 10 days.

ACROSS THE NATION

New investigators, chief get credit in Levy case

WASHINGTON (AP)—It took a new police chief, a fresh team of investigators and the unyielding persistence of Chandra Levy’s parents to finally get an arrest warrant in one of the na-

tion’s most famous cold cases. A Salvadoran illegal immigrant in prison for two other attacks in the same park where authorities say the young federal intern was sexually assaulted and killed will face a first-degree murder charge. But it took eight years to overcome a bungled police

investigation that focused on then-Congressman Gary Condit, who had been romantically linked to Levy. “It’s really never too late,” said Cathy Lanier, chief of District of Columbia police. “I think the combination of a fresh set of eyes and passage of time is sometimes what’s needed in cold cases.”

911 tape: Octuplet mom frantic in search for son

WHITTIER, Calif. (AP)—Octuplet mother Nadya Suleman became unhinged with fear last year when she thought she had lost one of her children, repeatedly telling an emergency dispatch-

er, “Oh God, I’m going to kill myself,” according to a recording of her 911 call released Wednesday by police. Suleman made the call Oct. 27 after her 5-year-old son went missing from the front yard, only to find him a few minutes later after he returned from a walk. Suleman’s repeated threats

of suicide prompted a chiding from the dispatcher, who could hear children’s voices in the background. “Don’t say that in front of your other child, OK?” the dispatcher tells Suleman. “Keep yourself under control for your other child; he doesn’t need to hear that.”



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**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM REPLACEMENT
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-09
DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Design and Replacement of the Saipan International Airport's Public Address System on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails design, supply and installation of a complete public address (PA) system at the entire international terminal of the Saipan International Airport. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, March 6, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Public Address System Replacement - Design/Build Services". One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The offerer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Design and Installation Timeline
3. Project Approach;
4. D-B Construction Team;
5. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
6. Available resources to accomplish the project;
7. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
8. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams. Project approach, timeline and cost must be within the parameters of the established Statement of Work (SOW). Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Total cost for design and installation	30%
2. D-B Installation time frame (This is critical and must be submitted with the Request for Proposal Package. The work days are calendar days.)	25%
3. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	20%
4. Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	15%
5. Project Approach	10%

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals. Award of a contract is contingent upon prior approval from FAA.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The contract period for design and replacement will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of \$500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: March 3, 2009



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**SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GENERATOR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE
AND OPERATION SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-09**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance and Operation Services of the Saipan International Airport's Backup Generator System on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing preventive maintenance services and operation of its two (2) 1.8 megawatt Caterpillar generators and ASCO controls at the Saipan International Airport. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, March 6, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Generator Preventive Maintenance and Operation Services". One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: March 3, 2009

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghans: Country not safe enough for early vote

KABUL (AP)—The Afghan election commission rejected President Hamid Karzai's request to move the presidential elections to the spring, saying the country won't be safe enough or have enough money by then to hold a vote. The commission's decision came Wednesday as a car bomb exploded outside the main U.S. base at Bagram, underscoring the shaky security situation the country faces as a resurgent Taliban militia increases its attacks. Karzai had asked the commission to move the elections from Aug. 20 to spring, but the commission said it could not because of bad spring weather, lack of funds, security issues and logistical problems like the distribution of ballots. Election officials say high mountain snows would prevent many thousands of Afghans from voting in the spring.

Japan PM's reading blunders spark study spree

TOKYO (AP)—Reading Japanese isn't easy—even for the Japanese. Take Prime Minister Taro Aso. He's made so many public blunders that an opposition lawmaker tried to give him a reading test during a televised session of parliament. The Japanese leader bungled the word for "frequent," calling Japan-China exchanges "cumbersome" instead. Another time, he misread the word "toshu" (follow), saying "fushu"—or stench—and sounded as if he were saying government policy "stinks." While the media and Aso's political rivals have been quick to heap ridicule, many Japanese have seen a bit more of themselves in Aso's goofs than they would like to admit. Since his missteps, books designed to improve reading ability have become all the rage. Aso's nemesis is his mother tongue's notoriously tricky mishmash of Chinese characters and its two sets of indigenous syllabaries.

Arroyo criticized for pardoning Aquino's killers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The family of assassinated Philippine opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. accused the president Thursday of denying them justice by pardoning 10 soldiers convicted of the 1983 murder.

Aquino, the opponent of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was gunned down at Manila airport as he was returning from U.S. exile. The assassination triggered massive protests culminating in Marcos' 1986 ouster and the election of Aquino's



Arroyo

widow as president. The current president, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, on Wednesday commuted the sentences of the last 10 convicted murderers. They were freed Wednesday.

Her spokesman, Cerge Remonde, said the move was "procedural" and

not political, because a convict is eligible for pardon and parole after serving a portion of his sentence. In this case, he said the former soldiers had been jailed for 26 years.

Sen. Benigno Aquino III said his family had not been given justice and suggested Arroyo was hitting back at his mother, former President Corazon Aquino, for joining opposition calls demanding Arroyo step down because of vote-rigging allegations.

"We are saddened to find that the memory of a man who gave up his

life for this country has not been spared from this administration's politics of petty vengeance," Sen. Aquino said in a statement.

Former President Aquino, 76, who has been battling colon cancer, refused to comment. She stepped down in 1992, but four years ago asked Arroyo to resign over allegations she cheated in the 2004 presidential elections. Arroyo has denied the charges, but the relationship between the two powerful women has been tense.

Pakistanis question how the cricket ambush could occur

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A day after the ambush of the Sri Lankan cricket team, Pakistanis asked Wednesday how terrorists managed to attack such a high-profile target and escape unscathed.

Underscoring the unease, a referee caught up in the attack alleged that police abandoned him like a "sitting duck," and video showed the gunmen sauntering down a deserted side street, apparently leaving with no fear of pursuit.

Pakistani officials rejected the allegation by British match official Chris Broad, noting that six policemen guarding the convoy were killed when it was attacked by up

to 14 heavily armed men near a stadium in the heart of Lahore.

But Broad's charge and the surveillance camera recording of the escaping gunmen triggered fresh questions about Pakistan's ability to prevent terrorist attacks, particularly in light of the government's pledge to give the Sri Lankan players and match officials the same level of protection afforded a head of state.

"It is a source of embarrassment at the international level," said Ahsan Iqbal, an opposition lawmaker. "This government should be ashamed and make those responsible for criminal negligence in their duties accountable."

China promises vigorous spending program

BEIJING (AP)—China rolled out an aggressive government spending program Thursday, promising ramped-up outlays for infrastructure and social programs to ward off the global economic downturn and forestall unrest.

In a two-hour speech focused on domestic affairs, Premier Wen Jiabao said government spending would soar 25 percent this year to revive the flagging economy and reach 8 percent growth.

Wen's broad-ranging address, comparable to a state-of-the-nation speech, also called for conserving energy and for trial programs to curb global warming. It also offered to hold peace and free-trade talks with rival Taiwan.

Policies target a broad range of

groups the authoritarian government relies on for support: tax cuts and home-buying incentives for exporters and real estate developers who provide crucial tax revenues, job creation programs for urban Chinese and more welfare for the poor and farmers who have benefited less from recent years of torrid growth and are more prone to protest.

"In China, a developing country with a population of 1.3 billion, maintaining a certain growth rate for the economy is essential for expanding employment for urban and rural residents, increasing people's incomes and ensuring social stability," Wen told the opening session of the national legislature inside the Great Hall of the People off central Tiananmen Square.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the following:

One (1) Tractor Mower For the Tinian International Airport:

The equipment should include at a minimum:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. STRUCTURE | Protective Rollover Structure with open cab and mechanical seat suspension system |
| 2. MOWER DECK | To include a fifteen foot (15') mower deck – mower deck to be winged type with three separate blades. Wings must be capable of being adjusted individually |
| 3. ROTATING BEACON | FAA approved colored rotating beacon mounted on roof |
| 4. RADIO | Mounted air-to-ground radio with headphones and microphone, mounted directly under roof of cab or encased for weather proofing |
| 5. COLOR | Airport yellow in color |
| 6. ENGINE | 80 horsepower or more |
| 7. TRANSMISSION | Standard |
| 8. FUEL | Diesel |
| 9. CYLINDERS | 4 |
| 10. CHASSIS | 4x2 2WD |
| 11. TIRES | FRONT - 7.50-16 REAR - 16.9-30 |
| 12. MANUALS | Technical and Parts Manuals for both tractor and mower must be provided |
| 13. DELIVERY | MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT |

A pre-proposal conference will be scheduled and held only upon request by proposers. However, attendance is not mandatory.

Proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, second floor of the arrival building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 20, 2009.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the Ports Authority to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. For additional information, please contact the Executive Director at 237-6500.

/s/ EFRAN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 19, 2009



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP 09-012

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled proposals for the **Survey, Architectural and Engineering Design Services for Garapan Elementary School (GES) on Saipan for the CNMI State Public School System**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-012" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **April 08, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-012, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

There will be a pre-bid conference for interested vendors on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the PSS or BOE Conference/Lounge Room on the 3rd for 2nd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill on the island of Saipan. All interested contractors must register at the P&S Office and get an authorization for Quick Print to pay and picked-up the Scope of Work and the Plans and will be assessed for the plan and the Scope of Work

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp**.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, and others, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System. All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer


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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**
**SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GENERATOR BUILDING RENOVATIONS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-005-09**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for renovations and improvements to the generator building at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of, but are not limited to replacement of doors and door frames, facility hardware, louver motors, air-conditioning units, renovations to living quarters and roof repairs.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects;
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 10, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 24, 2009


COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/01 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**
**SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-002-09**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for general improvements made to all restrooms at the international terminal buildings and upgrades to the water pump system at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of, but are not limited to, restroom door and fixture replacements and replacement of the water pump motor and controls.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

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Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 17, 2009


COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/01 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**
**SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
DRAINAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS/UPGRADE
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-003-09**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for improvements and upgrades to the drainage system at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of roof repairs and diversion of the roof drainage system at the arrival, departure and corridors.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

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Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 17, 2009


COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**
**SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
COMMUTER TERMINAL IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-09**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for improvements to the Commuter Terminal located at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of roof repairs, renovations to the interior of the terminal and limited renovations to the exterior to the terminal.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
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Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

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Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 17, 2009

World

Clinton accuses Iran of seeking to intimidate

BRUSSELS (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton swiped hard at Iran on Wednesday, accusing its hardline leaders of fomenting divisions in the Arab world, promoting terrorism, posing threats to Israel and Europe, and seeking to “intimidate as far as they think their voice can reach.”

Her remarks, at the conclusion of two days of talks in Egypt, Israel and the West Bank, were notable for coming from an Obama administration that has raised the prospect of diplomatic engagement with Iran as part of a new direction in U.S. foreign policy.

In remarks to reporters

aboard her plane en route from Ramallah to Brussels, Belgium, Clinton said that in her talks with Arab foreign ministers and other leaders she heard “over and over and over again” a deep-seated worry about threats posed by the Iranians.

“It is clear that Iran intends to interfere with the internal affairs of all of these people and try to continue their efforts to fund terrorism, whether it’s Hezbollah or Hamas or other proxies,” she said.

The sharp objections to Iranian behavior that Clinton enumerated are the same as those underlined by the Bush administration during its dealings

with Tehran. The difference is that the Obama administration says it sees merit in pressing the Iranians to discuss the problems, even if talks fail or the Iranians refuse to engage.

In Tehran on Wednesday, Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, accused President Barack Obama of following the same mistaken path as the Bush administration with his “unconditional” support of Israel. Khamenei also called Israel a “cancerous tumor” that is on the verge of collapse. He said Israeli leaders should be put on trial for its military offensive in Gaza, which ended with a shaky cease-fire in mid-January.

Wanted for war crimes in Darfur: Sudan’s president

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—The president of Sudan became a wanted man Wednesday when the International Criminal Court charged him with war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur—its first action against a sitting head of state and one that could set the stage for more world leaders to be indicted.

President Omar al-Bashir’s government retaliated by expelling 10 humanitarian groups from Darfur and seizing their

assets, threatening lifesaving operations, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said the United States supported the court’s action “to hold accountable those who are responsible for the heinous crimes in Darfur.” Up to 300,000 people have died and 2.7 million have fled their homes in the region.

U.N. officials in Sudan will continue to deal with al-Bashir because he remains the

president of the country, U.N. spokeswoman Michele Montas said in New York.

In the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, the government denounced the warrant as part of a Western conspiracy aimed at destabilizing the vast oil-rich nation south of Egypt. “There will be no recognition of or dealing with the white man’s court, which has no mandate in Sudan or against any of its people,” the Information Ministry said.

Bad altimeter a factor in Netherlands plane crash

AMSTERDAM (AP)—A false reading from a faulty altimeter caused an autopilot to sharply slow a Turkish Airlines jet short of the runway last month, sending it plunging into a muddy field and killing nine people, Dutch investigators said Wednesday.

The flight carrying 135 passengers and crew crashed a kilometer (less than a mile) from Amsterdam’s Schiphol Airport as it was landing on Feb. 25. The

pilots were among the dead.

One of the plane’s altimeters, a device that measures altitude, had registered that the plane was flying below sea level and caused the autopilot to rapidly reduce power before the crash, officials said.

The Boeing 737-800’s flight recorders showed false readings from the same altimeter on two flights before the crash, chief investigator Pieter van

Vollenhoven said. He did not say if pilots had noticed the previous incorrect readings.

The Dutch Safety Authority said it had issued a warning to Boeing as a result of its investigation, asking the company to alert customers that when altimeters are not functioning properly “the automatic pilot and the gas system coupled to them may not be used for approach and landing,” Van Vollenhoven said.

ments. Rico says the Mexican government will be “very attentive in the next days to see what the Senate decides.” He spoke Wednesday to Mexican lawmakers. The Merida Initiative aims to help Mexico acquire equipment for the drug battle and improve its police and judicial institutions.

Britain gives Sen. Kennedy honorary knighthood

LONDON (AP)—He won’t be allowed to call himself Sir Ted, but U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy

has been awarded an honorary knighthood by Britain. Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced the honor Wednesday during an address to a joint session of Congress in Washington. Kennedy, who is battling brain cancer, did not attend Brown’s speech. Brown said Kennedy had helped bring peace to Northern Ireland, expand health care for Americans and improve access to education for children around the world. “And for all those things we owe a great debt to the life and courage of Sen. Edward Kennedy,” Brown said.

Off The Wall

Eagle survives crash through truck windshield



This photo released by Jo Dean of the Northeastern Nevada Wildlife Rehabilitation Center shows Pete Bradley, a biologist from the Nevada Dept. of Wildlife, holding an injured golden eagle as wildlife rehabilitator Jo Dean looks on in Springs Creek, Nev. on Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

RENO, Nev. (AP)—The eagle has landed—with a thud—after crashing through the windshield of a tractor-trailer on a Nevada highway. State wildlife officials said Wednesday that a 15-pound golden eagle with a 7-foot wing span has a swollen head but otherwise appears unharmed after crashing into a Florida truck driver’s big rig on Monday.

Matthew Roberto Gonzalez of Opa Locka, Fla., was driving on U.S. Interstate 80 in northeast Nevada near Wells, about 60 miles west of the Utah line, when the eagle came crashing into the cab of his truck.

“It looks like she hit it head first. One side of the head is swollen, but there does not appear to be any permanent

damage,” said Joe Doucette, a spokesman for the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

“The guys in the truck immediately bailed out because it was one ticked off bird. She was pretty feisty,” Doucette told The Associated Press. “Even the officer who responded didn’t want to go in there so we had one of our wildlife biologists do it.”

Mayor scales ladder to ‘rescue’ sunbathing dog

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP)—A South Texas mayor became so concerned about reports of a Great Dane being stuck on a second-story balcony that he alerted emergency workers, went to the location himself, scaled a fire department ladder and entered the apartment to help the dog. The problem was, the dog wasn’t in distress. The bigger problem came

when the surprised dog owner found Mayor Pat Ahumada standing in his kitchen Tuesday.

“He broke into my house,” the owner, who asked not to be identified, told the Brownsville Herald. “My dog is very well taken care of. He shouldn’t have done that.”

Ahumada, a dog lover whose zeal for the animals has caused problems before, said a local TV

station called him to say a dog was stuck. Ahumada called animal services, the fire department and the police.

“He looked to be stuck on the balcony,” Ahumada said. “I didn’t know the condition of the dog or if the building was abandoned. ... The animal’s paws were hanging out from the railing and he was struggling to get up.”

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Wis. student accused of urinating in drink

HARTFORD, Wis. (AP)—For the second time in three months, police are investigating whether a high school student urinated in a drink before someone took a sip. Police said Tuesday a 16-year-old boy at Hartford Union High School urinated in a drink and offered it to his basketball teammates in November. A 15-year-old boy took a sip and stopped when other boys laughed. The basketball coach said he suspended the older boy and called his parents. The incident came to light as police investigated a complaint last month that two other junior boys at the school put urine in a soda at a basketball game.

In that case, an administrator received an e-mail the boys sent to students who tasted the drink.

Florida woman calls 911 3 times over McNuggets

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (AP)—Authorities say a Florida woman called 911 three times after McDonald’s employees told her they were out of McNuggets. A police report said 27-year-old Fort Pierce resident Latrea L. Goodman told authorities she

paid for a 10-piece last week but was later informed the restaurant had run out. She says she was refused a refund and told all sales were final. A cashier told police she offered Goodman a larger portion of different food for the same price, but Goodman became irate. Police say Goodman was cited on a misuse of 911 charge. A current phone listing for Goodman couldn’t be found. A McDonald’s spokesman says Goodman should have been given a refund, and she’s being sent a gift card for a free meal.

Mass. Wal-Mart customer finds teeth in wallet

FALMOUTH, Mass. (AP)—A customer shopping at a Wal-Mart for a wallet claims he found something that definitely didn’t fit the bill: human teeth. Police say the man found 10 human teeth Saturday when he unzipped a compartment in the wallet. One tooth had a filling. The customer turned the wallet and the teeth over to employees at the Falmouth store but left without giving his name. Police investigating the incident told The Cape Cod Times that the teeth belong to an adult, but since there was

no blood or gum tissue on the teeth, they would be unable to perform DNA tests. A Walmart spokeswoman said the company believes it was an “isolated incident,” but will investigate.

Mich. teen escapes injury after listening to dad

BANGOR TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—A father’s decision to tell his 17-year-old son to get off the floor and lay down on a couch may have saved the boy from injury when a suspected drunken driver crashed into their Michigan home. Roy Rabadue told The Saginaw News and WJRT-TV he was watching television Monday night in their home in Bay County’s Bangor Township, about 90 miles northwest of Detroit, when he decided to make cookies. He told Joseph to move, and his son complied. Shortly afterward, a pickup smashed into the home. The crash tossed their 52-inch television across the living room, landing where Joseph had been on the floor. The couch overturned along with a chair where Rabadue’s 12-year-old son, Jacob, was sitting. Both escaped injury.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico worried about getting less US anti-drug aid

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The Mexican government is concerned about getting less funding for its battle against drug trafficking under a bill passed by the U.S. House. Deputy Secretary of Foreign Relations Carlos Rico says he is concerned that the bill passed last week allotted \$300 million for Mexico under the so-called Merida Initiative. That is \$100 million less than originally agreed upon between the U.S. and Mexican govern-



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP 09-008

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled proposals for the **Shipper / Receiver to coordinate the receiving, shipment / freight handling of instructional materials, supplies and other needs from US mainland, Hawaii and territories vendors for the CNMI State Public School System (PSS)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-008" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 11, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-008, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

There will be a pre-bid conference for interested vendors on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the PSS Conference/Lounge Room on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill on the island of Saipan.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, extend the contract 2 or 3 times, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP 09-009

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Construction of Generator House at various Head Start Centers on Saipan for the CNMI State Public School System (PSS)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-009" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 10, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-009, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

There will be a pre-bid conference for interested vendors on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the PSS Conference/Lounge Room on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill on the island of Saipan. Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

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All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer



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State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID IFB 09-010

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of **Bottled Water and Delivery Service**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-010" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-010, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1) copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, PSS Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Request for Proposal RFP 09-011

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Procurement and Installations of Typhoon Shutters at various Head Start Centers on Saipan for the CNMI State Public School System (PSS)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-011" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **April 07, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-011, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

There will be a pre-bid conference for interested vendors on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the PSS or BOE Conference/Lounge Room on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill on the island of Saipan. All interested contractors must register at the P&S Office and a minimal fee of \$3.00 will be assessed for the plan and the Scope of Work.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, extend the contract 2 or 3 times, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System. All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Science & Technology

Kindle for iPhone may benefit Amazon, analysts say

NEW YORK (AP)—In bringing its Kindle e-book reader to a much larger audience through the iPhone and iPod Touch, Amazon.com Inc. may benefit even if the additional eyeballs don't translate into actual sales of the \$359 Kindle device.

Seattle-based Amazon rolled out the free program on Wednesday, bringing several Kindle functions to the Apple gadgets' smaller screens. The application can be downloaded from Apple's online application store and lets iPhone and iPod Touch users read the same electronic books that Kindle owners can buy on Amazon.com.

The application's release comes a few weeks after Amazon unveiled the second-generation Kindle. The company has not released sales figures for the device, which it began selling in late 2007, but Citi Investment Research analyst Mark Mahaney recently estimated that the company sold 500,000 Kindles in 2008.

Regardless of how many Kindles have been snapped up, the availability of the Kindle program on the iPhone and iPod gives Amazon millions more potential e-book buyers—4.3 million 3G iPhones alone were sold in the U.S. in 2008.

And while Amazon hopes that the application will translate into increased sales for both e-books and the Kindle device, Creative Strategies Inc. tech analyst Tim Bajarin said he believes the former is the more important result in extending Kindle capabilities to



Text from an Amazon.com e-book is shown on an iPhone equipped with Amazon's Kindle for iPhone book reader Wednesday, March 4, 2009 in New York.

Apple's products.

Amazon currently has 240,000 books available for the Kindle, and its library will grow. The more e-books you have, the more people you need to buy them, he said.

"If you've only limited it to a Kindle (device) audience, you don't have exponential growth," he said.

He thinks the application will have a "significant impact" on people discovering e-books.

Stephen Ju, an analyst with RBC

Capital Markets, thinks Amazon simply wants to sell books. "I don't think they care if you don't buy a Kindle if they can sell you a book. I think that's what they really care about at the end of the day," he said.

That's not to say that analysts think the application will cannibalize sales of the Kindle device. Bajarin said the smaller screen is a good way to introduce consumers to e-books, but thinks serious readers will buy the Kindle as the economy improves.

REVIEW

Kindle comes to iPhone

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon.com Inc. has received a lot of attention and respectable sales for its Kindle e-book reader, but it's hardly made a dent in the hardcover armor of the old-fashioned paper book.

On Wednesday, the Internet company revealed another prong of its strategy in making its gigantic e-book library available on a device already in millions of hands: the iPhone.

This is a big step for e-books, which have lingered outside the mainstream for nearly two decades even as digital media have conquered music and film distribution. Amazon's move combines a readily available device that's suitable for reading with a good distribution system and reasonably priced books.

That said, the first version of the iPhone application is crude, and Ama-

zon would do well to release a software update soon to demonstrate its commitment to the iPhone.

But before we get into that, let's take a look at how the Kindle app works. It's free, available in Apple Inc.'s App Store for U.S. residents. Amazon says it's working on taking it international, though I wouldn't hold my breath because that would involve securing international publishing rights. Apart from the iPhone, it will also work on the iPod Touch.

Once you've loaded the app, you can buy books on Amazon's Web store. You'll have to use either a computer or the iPhone's browser. Unlike some other e-book readers, including the Kindle, the app doesn't have a built-in store. Considering that most people are familiar with the Web site, this isn't a major shortcoming.

Facebook: Taking a cue from Twitter in sharing?

NEW YORK (AP)—The popular online hangout Facebook is revamping its home page and plans other changes so its millions of users can more easily choose the types of information they see.

Perhaps taking a cue from Twitter, the rising service for letting people express themselves in 140 characters or less and keep up with what celebrities have to say, Facebook said Wednesday it will let users follow public figures like President Barack Obama and swimmer Michael Phelps, bands like U2 and even institutions like The New York Times.

Facebook's fan pages currently work as static destination sites for anything from bacon to Coca-Cola to Jane Austen. The social-networking site will eventually make them work more like profiles, which individuals can now continuously update by posting photos, links and other tidbits.

"As more and more information flows through Facebook, the need for people to easily discover the most recent and relevant content has grown," Founder and Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg said in a blog post.

Beginning next Wednesday, Facebook will also launch a redesigned home page that lets users receive continuous updates from their friends instead of every 10 or 15 minutes.



In this screen grab provided by Facebook, the public profile page for Britney Spears is shown.

Catholics are urged to give up texting for Lent

ROME (AP)—Roman Catholic bishops in Italy are urging the faithful to go on a high-tech fast for Lent, switching off modern appliances from cars to iPods and abstaining from surfing the Web or text messaging until Easter.

The suggestion goes far beyond no-meat Fridays, giving a modern twist to traditional forms of abstinence in the five-week period Christians set aside for fasting and prayer ahead of Easter.

And it shows the Church's increasing focus on technology's uses—with many of the Lenten appeals posted on various dioceses' Web sites.

Dioceses and Catholic groups in

Modena, southern Bari and other cities have called for a ban on text messaging every Friday in Lent, which began last week with Ash Wednesday.

"It's a small way to remember the importance of concrete and not virtual relationships," the Modena diocese said in a statement. "It's an instrument to remind us that our actions and lifestyles have consequences in distant countries."

The diocese said the "no SMS day" seeks to draw attention to years of conflict in Congo fueled in part by the struggle for control of coltan mines. The mineral is an essential material in

cell phones.

The Turin diocese is suggesting the faithful not watch television during Lent. In the northeastern city of Trento, the church has created a "new lifestyles" calendar with proposals for each week of Lent.

Some ideas: Leave cars at home and hop on a bike or a bus; stop throwing chewing gum on the street and start recycling waste; enjoy the silence of a week without the Internet and iPods.

Italian laity and clergy have reacted cautiously to the proposals. Some say Lenten abstinence should be a personal matter, and others contend that people who need technology to work shouldn't be asked to do without.

TECHNOLOGY BRIEFS

Finnish Parliament approves e-mail tracking law

HELSINKI (AP)—The Finnish Parliament approved controversial legislation Wednesday that allows employers to track workers' e-mails. Lawmakers approved the government proposal in a 96-56 vote. Forty-eight were absent or abstained. The new law, which is subject to the president's approval, does not allow employers to read employees' e-mails. But it gives them the right to track workers' e-mails by retaining information about such messages, including the recipients, senders and the time when e-mails have been sent or received. It also allows them to see if e-mails contain attachments. If employers suspect a crime, they have to call in police to investigate. Previously, the law was unclear regarding whether these practices were allowed.

Job-offer spam gets makeover for recession

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A staple of the spammer's arsenal—those come-ons for job offers—is getting a makeover because of the recession as online identity thieves concoct clever new ways to sneak onto people's computers. One tactic the bad guys are trying is a twist on an old standby: e-mails purporting to come from legitimate companies that say they're still hiring. The messages are loaded with links to the company's official Web

site to throw off suspicious recipients. However, they are also packed with a dangerous surprise—a computer virus—hidden in an attachment that is supposed to be a job application. One message, supposedly from Coca-Cola Co., trumpets that "We are hiring!" All the recipient has to do is fill out the attached application to get started. There are some tip-offs, though, that the message is fraudulent: the English is choppy, the company promises 12 weeks of paid vacation and that "None of the positions require any kind of education or work experience!"

Japan cell phone goes 3D with special display

TOKYO (AP)—The Japanese already use their cell phones to shop, exchange e-mail and watch digital TV. Now comes another dimension to the ever-growing list of eye-catching mobile features: the 3D display. The Hitachi Ltd.'s Wooo H001 cell phone, which went on sale last month in Japan for 50,000 yen (\$510), has a tiny button that says "3D" below the keyboard. Push it, and the screen's image will appear three-dimensional, seeming to protrude slightly from the 3.1-inch liquid crystal display. Similar to how 3D movies and TVs work, the technology takes advantage of how the human mind understands depth and spacing. By sending a slightly different image to each eye, the 3D cell phone creates the illusion of 3D, almost like a miniature hologram.

Life & Style

Kirk Douglas, at age 92, stars in one-man show

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP)—Kirk Douglas emerges from behind a black curtain and walks purposefully, if a bit unsteadily, to center stage.

"When you have a stroke, you must talk slowly to be understood," he says, smiling to a largely empty theatre at a rehearsal of his new one-man show "Before I Forget." The 92-year-old actor emphasizes each syllable as clearly and firmly as he can through the speech impediment caused by a 1996 stroke.

"I've discovered that when I talk slowly, people listen! They think I'm going to say something important."

Douglas waves both hands as if scoffing at the concept, then takes a seat in a black leather easy chair.

Plenty of people are willing to listen. The four scheduled performances of Douglas' show, beginning this Friday, are sold out. The site: Kirk Douglas Theatre, opened by the Center Theatre group in 2004 after a \$2.5 million donation from Douglas and his wife Anne.

"You know, I never wanted to be a movie actor," Douglas says from the chair after a sip of water. "My goal in life was to be a star on the stage. Now I



AP
In this Feb. 14, 2001 file photo, actor Kirk Douglas arrives at Berlin's Tempelhof airport on Feb. 14, 2001, in Germany.

know how to do it. Build your own theatre."

Douglas, who has appeared in over 75 movies—"Too many. Some good, some bad," he offers—developed the one-man show after writing nine books, including "My Stroke of Luck" and his most recent, "Let's Face It."

"But I found it was easier to write a one-man show than to present it," he said in an interview in the theatre lobby. "Because as you know, I have an impediment in my speech because of my stroke. But that's

a challenge for me, and I have always welcomed a challenge."

The nearly 1 1/2-hour performance features clips from Douglas' movies and public appearances, including his 1996 appearance at the Academy Awards, where he received an honorary Oscar.

Douglas talks understatedly about his famous family and friends like the briefly-married Ava Gardner and Frank Sinatra. He remembers one night when they were all staying at the same New York hotel and Gardner came knocking on his door, sobbing.

"She had just had a violent argument with Frank, who seized a gun and he threatened to shoot himself," said Douglas, who also recounted the incident in his latest book. "I calmed Eva down and she went back." (Biographer Lee Server also wrote that Sinatra had twice become suicidal during his relationship with the actress.)

Douglas clearly enjoys the process of looking back at the people and projects of years long past.

He notes in the interview that he's most proud of his work on 1960's "Spartacus," created during the anti-communist paranoia of the 1950s.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF *Berlita 'Berly' Pontillas Vidal*

February 28, 1945 - March 1, 2009

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: Federico Pontillas and Cirila Pontillas
Brother & Sister-in-Law: Leopoldo Fontillas and Elvie Fontillas
Sisters: Petronia Ramos, Jacinta Ramos
Father-in-law & Mother-in-law: Vicente Vidal and Carmen Vidal

Her memory will live forever in the hearts of her:

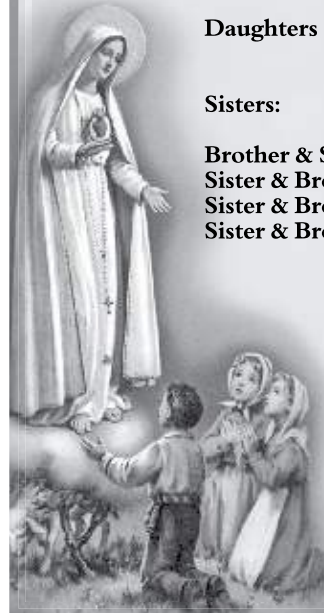
Husband: Rudico 'Rudy' De Guzman Vidal
Daughter & Son-in-Law: Noreta V. Pamintuan and Emanuel D. Pamintuan

Grandchildren:

Joanne V. Pamintuan
Ianne Miles V. Pamintuan
Aaron Paul V. Pamintuan
Noemy Grace V. Pamintuan
Manuel V. Pamintuan
Nenita V. Grdina and Joe Grdina
Daughter & Son-in-Law: Nicholas V. Grdina
Grandchildren: Tyler V. Grdina
Eleonor P. Vidal
Bryant V. Dy
Ivan P. Vidal

Daughters and Son:

Leah P. Vidal
Alyssa P. Vidal
Ryan P. Vidal
Marcelina Amigable
Esmeria Perez
Brother & Sister-in-law: Domingo Pontillas and Elenita Pontillas
Sister & Brother-in-law: Juliana Aguimbag and Puring Aguimbag
Sister & Brother-in-law: Virginia Calpo and Loreto Calpo
Sister & Brother-in-law: Lilia Srichinda and JJ Srichinda



She will be greatly missed by numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Nightly rosary is being said at Nuestra Señora dela Paz, Cabrera Center, Garapan, Saipan. On March 7 through March 9, 2009 nightly rosary is at Vidal-Pamintuan residence on Texas Rd., Chalan Kanoa. Final viewing and blessing of her remains will take place March 6, 2009 (Friday) 6:00 p.m. at Nuestra Señora dela Paz prior to her remains departure to Olongapo City, Philippines.

Thank You.

From the Family

First Year Death Anniversary



In celebration of the First Year Death Anniversary of when our Heavenly Father lovingly called our father home to his everlasting life in paradise.

**Jose Igibor
(Maguines)
Seman**

We the family, invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year death anniversary on the passing of our beloved father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Daily mass of intention will be celebrated at the Saint Jude Church as follow:

March 7, 2009 – Saturday	7:00 a.m.
March 8, 2009 – Sunday	6:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
March 9, 2009 – Monday	6:00 p.m.
March 10, 2009 – Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
March 11, 2009 – Wednesday	6:00 p.m.
March 12, 2009 – Thursday	6:00 p.m.
March 13, 2009 – Friday	6:00 p.m.
March 14, 2009 – Saturday	7:00 a.m.

On the last day, Sunday, March 15, 2009, the Eucharistic celebration will be at 6:00 a.m., followed by breakfast at the Saint Jude Social Hall.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Un'Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan Ghilissow
Ginen I Familia



In Humble Appreciation

We, the family of the late

**TORCUATO
BORJA
TUDELA**



express our sincerest appreciation to those who provided our family with the love, support and prayers in our time of sorrow.

Special Thanks To: Bishop Tomas A. Camacho and all the clergy; Rita C. Guerrero and Juanita C. Deleon Guerrero (Techa), Kristo Rai Choir; CHC Staff; Marianas Visiting Nurses; EMS Staff; Department of Public Safety (DPS); Office of the Mayor and to all those who joined us in prayers near or far.

And Most Especially to Our Relatives and Friends from our neighboring islands who graced us with prayers and gifts of love throughout the nightly rosaries and funeral services. Your kind deeds will be forever cherished in our hearts.

May God Bless Us All!

Ginen I Familia

'American Idol' selects 3 more finalists

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The drama is over for Nathaniel Marshall and Kristen McNamara on "American Idol."

The pair of singers who sparred with their group during Hollywood Week were two of nine semifinalists sent packing Wednesday on the popular Fox singing competition—and they weren't selected to return for the special wild card round, either.

The third group of three finalists headed to the top 12: Lil Rounds, the smooth 23-year-old mother of three from Memphis, Tenn.; Scott MacIntyre, the soul-

ful 23-year-old piano player from Scottsdale, Ariz., and Jorge Nunez, the charming 20-year-old college student from Carolina, Puerto Rico. The trio received the most viewer votes Tuesday.

The show's four judges seemed in agreement with the viewer votes this week. They apparently didn't want to be without Rounds, who received the biggest endorsement after singing Mary J. Blige's "Be Without You." The panel also lauded MacIntyre and Nunez, who broke into tears Tuesday after his rendition of Elton John's "Don't Let the Sun Go

Down on Me."

"You're born to sing," said Kara DioGuardi. "What you have comes from the heart."

At the end of the show, the judges also announced the semifinalists who will get a second shot at the top 12.

Von Smith, Jasmine Murray, Ricky Braddy, Megan Corkrey, Tatiana Del Toro, Matt Giraud, Jesse Langseth and Anoop Desai will return to the stage for the wild card round Thursday. The judges will pick the final three finalists from that group.

"Thank you so much. Thank



AP
In this image released by Fox, "American Idol" contestant Jorge Nunez is shown.

you so much," said a weeping Del Toro. "I want this so much. This means so much to me."

Nunez, MacIntyre and Rounds join previously picked finalists Kris Allen, Adam Lambert, Allison Iraheta, Danny Gokey, Alexis Grace and Michael Sarver. The show's dozen finalists will be known Thursday after the wild card round.

Beginning next week, the finalists start competing—with one singer sent packing each Wednesday.

Michael Jackson seeks comeback in London

LONDON (AP)—Michael Jackson is making his first live appearance in years, but will it still be a thriller?

The King of Pop is due to meet the press at a London concert arena this week to announce the mother of all comebacks—a string of concerts that organizers hope will net the financially troubled star millions.

But after years of erratic behavior, health fears, child-abuse allegations and money woes, is the once-golden Jackson brand tarnished beyond repair?

"Because of what's happened to him and how he's lived his life over the last 20 years, he's made it very difficult for people to out themselves as Michael Jackson fans," British music writer and broadcaster John Aizlewood said Wednesday. "These concerts are a huge opportunity for rehabilitation."

Jackson, 50, flew into London by private jet Tuesday ahead of a "special announcement" Thursday afternoon at the city's O2 Arena. It is widely expected he will announce a string of up to 30 dates at the domed arena beside the River Thames, which holds up to 20,000 people. It has become a venue of choice for big-name acts and comeback performers.

Britney Spears is due to play there for eight nights in June, Prince did a 21-day series of shows at the arena in 2007, and Led Zeppelin played a one-off reunion gig there the same year.

If organizers hope to see a return of the fan frenzy that once followed Jackson everywhere, they may be disappointed. Only a handful of people joined the packs of press photographers and camera crews Wednesday outside Jackson's London hotel—and several of those said they were seeking autographs to sell on eBay.

But even if Jacksonmania is a diminished force, his comeback would be a huge event.

One of the best-selling artists of all time, Jackson has sold more than 750 million albums and won 13 Grammy awards. "Thriller," released in 1982, is still the best-selling album of all time.

Jackson has not released a studio album or played a full concert since 2001. His last major tour was the HIStory World Tour in 1996-1997.

Since then, Jackson's ever-changing appearance and erratic behavior have often overshadowed his music.

He was arrested in 2003 on child-molestation charges and acquitted in 2005 after a trial in California. Since then he has traveled the world, spending time in Ireland, France and the Gulf state of Bahrain.

His last live performance in Britain was at the 2006 World Music Awards. He was scheduled to perform "We Are the World" but only managed a few lines before leaving the stage.

He has struggled to pay his debts after his financial empire crumbled following his arrest. Last year he was forced to give up the deed to Neverland,



AP
In this Nov. 8, 2007 file photo, pop star Michael Jackson poses on the red carpet during the RainbowPUSH Coalition Los Angeles 10th annual awards in Los Angeles.

his 2,500-acre (1,000 hectare) ranch and miniature amusement park in California.

In November, Jackson reached an undisclosed settlement with a Bahraini prince who had brought a \$7 million breach of contract suit against him.

In April, Jackson will auction more than 2,000 personal items from Neverland, including platinum and gold records, a customized Harley Davidson and a Rolls Royce limousine.

His health is rumored to be as precarious as his finances. He often looks gaunt in photographs, and rumors of his condition have ranged from lung disease to an infection acquired during nose surgery.

Bookmaker William Hill is already taking bets on whether Jackson will show up for his first gig. It is offering 5/1 odds that he won't, and spokesman Graham Sharpe anticipates brisk business.

"Once people start buying tickets they may well want to have a bet that he won't show up as a form of insurance," Sharpe said.

Aizlewood said he would bet on the ever-erratic Jackson pulling it off.

In Humble Gratitude

We the children of the late

Maria Gina H. Santos,

wish to express our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends who comforted us and helped us in every way possible during our most painful time of sorrow.

Your presence at the nightly rosaries and at the celebration of Her New Life have deeply touched our hearts.

Although our beloved is now at peace, her spirit and fond memories remain in each of us and will never be forgotten. Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you.

Thank you once again and God bless us all!

**The Children & Family of the late
Maria Gina H. Santos**



We Are Forever Grateful



We, the family of our dearly beloved **GEORGE PETER UNTALAN DIAZ**, a loving husband, a caring and devoted father and grandfather, together with the families of our beloved grandparents, **JOSE & TOMASA UNTALAN DIAZ**, would like to express our deepest gratitude to all our relatives and friends, who came to join us in the daily masses of intentions and the nightly rosaries in remembrance of their new lives without our Creator.

To Fr. Ray Rosal, thank you for celebrating the masses of intentions and your words of inspiration. We thank our techa, Auntie Alice, for leading us in prayer at the nightly rosaries.

To all who have traveled from all distances to be with us, and most especially to all those who have kept our dearly beloved in your prayers, we are forever grateful.

To our families and friends who have been so generous, thank you for comforting us with your time, your presence at the nightly rosaries and your generous donations at the nightly meals.

Your kindness and generosity will forever be in our hearts, and we pray that our dear Lord, will continue to bless and shower each one of us with His graces as we continue to live on, one day at a time.

Dangkulo Na Si Yuus Ma'ase

Evelyn Flores Diaz

(Geolyn, George, Jr., Joseph, Jeremiah, Geraldine, Jude and families)



Producer: 'Bachelor' finale wasn't fixed

NEW YORK (AP)—Was Jason Mesnick's change of heart on "The Bachelor" staged for the cameras to capture big ratings? Not so, according to the show's executive producer.

Mike Fleiss said Wednesday that producers of the ABC dating show did not create the outcome of Monday's season finale that prompted viewer outrage when Mesnick dumped his first choice for the runner-up and was the highest rated show in its time slot, 8-10 p.m. EST, with 15.45 million viewers.

Mesnick, a 32-year-old single dad from Seattle, proposed to Melissa Rycroft in New Zealand. But in the subsequent "After the Final Rose" special, taped six weeks later, he dumped Rycroft because he still had feelings for runner-up Molly Malaney, after weeks of no contact. He and Malaney are now dating.

Fleiss said producers have "zero" influence in selecting the woman who wins the final rose.

"The great thing about unscripted television is that it's unpredictable, and that's what this was," he said of Mesnick's deci-



AP
In this image released by ABC, Jason Mesnick, right, is shown with Molly Malaney on the season finale of "The Bachelor," airing Monday, March 2, 2009 on ABC.

Actors sue movie distributor for unauthorized ad



AP
In this U.S. Sept. 15, 2008 file photo, actors Robert De Niro, left, Al Pacino arrive for the French premiere of "Righteous Kill," in Paris.

NEW YORK (AP)—Robert De Niro and Al Pacino are teaming up in a lawsuit against a movie distributor and a watch company they say used their likenesses without permission.

The actors said in the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in

Manhattan on Wednesday that they never authorized a commercial tie-in between Tutima watches and the movie "Righteous Kill." They sought unspecified damages.

The actors recently starred in the movie distributed by Over-

ture Films LLC. The lawsuit names Overture and Tutima USA Inc. as defendants.

In a statement, Overture said: "We are surprised by this action as Overture Films has not received any communication on this matter for months from Pacino, De Niro or their representatives. We take lawsuits very seriously and our legal team is addressing the issue."

Tutima did not immediately return a telephone message seeking comment.

The lawsuit said Overture entered into a commercial tie-in with Tutima and advertised Tutima's watches using De Niro's and Pacino's names, voices and likenesses without their consent.

"Had their permission been sought, both De Niro and Pacino would have flatly refused to consent to the use of their names, voices and/or likenesses in connection with the tie-in," the lawsuit said.

It said De Niro has only commercially endorsed a product or service in the United States under very "specific and compelling circumstances."

Mariska Hargitay is in the hospital for collapsed lung

NEW YORK (AP)—Emmy winner Mariska Hargitay is in the hospital.

The star of NBC's "Law & Order: Special Victim's Unit" was hospitalized on Wednesday after feeling discomfort from a partially collapsed lung. She is undergoing tests.

Hargitay has been ailing since at least mid-January, when producers announced that she had a partially collapsed lung. Her

spokeswoman, Leslie Sloane, said the actress "expects to be feeling better soon" and that production of the show will not be affected.

Hargitay, 45, won an Emmy last year for her role as Detective Olivia Benson on "Law & Order: SVU."

AP
In this Sept. 21, 2008 file photo, Mariska Hargitay arrives for the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.



sion to let Rycroft go and rekindle his romance with Malaney. "It caught us off guard. It caught the viewers off guard."

Mesnick has been the target of passionate discussion on Internet message boards and forums for rejecting Rycroft in such an alarmingly public format. An angry torrent of viewers, including Elisabeth Hasselbeck and Trista Rehn, lashed out at Mesnick, throwing verbal stones and questioning his moral character. They overwhelmingly supported Rycroft, a 25-year-old sales rep from Dallas, who'd fallen in love with Mesnick and planned to be step mother to his 3-year-old son, Ty, from a previous marriage.

She bristled with anger as she cursed at Mesnick, gave him back his ring, told him never to call her again and walked off the stage. He

then asked Malaney, a 24-year-old department store buyer from Grand Rapids, Mich., for another chance and she agreed.

Mesnick defended his actions in a post-finale appearance on Jimmy Kimmel's talk show, saying his relationship with Rycroft went sour when the cameras stopped rolling and she "knew exactly what was going on" before her rejection at the "After the Final Rose" taping.

"It just wasn't working out for them," Fleiss said. "She knew it. She didn't know that it was about Molly—I think that was the thing that caught her off guard."

Mesnick said he had to break up with Rycroft on camera because of his contract with the show.

"There was no contractual obligation," Fleiss countered. "You can check the contract. ... How would you put that in a contact

anyway? Like, everything you do in your life must be shown on ABC. It's impossible."

The Associated Press was unable to immediately obtain a copy of the "Bachelor" contract that contestants must sign when they agree to appear on the show. ABC representative Cathy Rehl directed a request to Warner Horizon Television, an arm of Warner Bros. Television, which produces the show. Warner representative Natalia Desrosiers said she was not authorized to provide a contract to the AP.

Either way, Fleiss televised the drama. "It's a TV show, and that was really the defining moment of this series, and to not put that on TV seems strange, really, when you consider that we are making a TV show and these people signed up to do a TV show," Fleiss said.

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Watchmen

Friday	4:00	7:05	10:15
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:05
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:05
Mon and Tues	4:00	7:05	

Malin Akerman, Billy Crudup
Action, Adventure • Rated R

Synopsis
In the 1950s, a seemingly ordinary guy puts on a mask and a superhero costume and starts to fight crime. He is joined by a bunch of others who take up the same pursuit, until a law is passed that forces them to hang up their capes. When a few of the former crimefighters are mysteriously murdered, the remaining members set out to solve the crimes.

Slumdog Millionaire

Friday	4:20	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:00
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:00
Mon and Tues	4:20	7:00	

Dev Patel, Anil Kapoor
Comedy, Drama • Rated R

Synopsis
Today is the biggest day in Jamal Malik's life. A penniless, eighteen year-old orphan from the slums of Mumbai, he's one question away from winning a staggering 20 million rupees on India's "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" But when the show breaks for the night, suddenly, he is arrested on suspicion of cheating. After all, how could an uneducated street kid possibly know so much?

Love Me Again

Friday	4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20
Mon and Tues	4:25	7:20	

Piolo Pascual, Angel Locsin
Love, Romance, Drama • Rated PG

Synopsis
Arah (Angel Locsin) dreams of a better life—different from the life she knows in Bukidnon. Ranches everywhere are closing one by one. The glory her hometown once knew was slowly disappearing in favour of life abroad, particularly in Australia. Arah believes this too. Australia will save them from poverty. But Migo (Piolo Pascual) does not share this belief. He believes that Bukidnon's glory will return if only people didn't leave. Migo is Arah's first love.

The Uninvited

Friday	4:05	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:05	7:25
Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:25
Mon and Tues	4:05	7:25	

Elizabeth Banks, David Strathairn
Horror, Remake • Rated PG 13

Push

Friday	4:15	7:30	9:40
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30
Mon and Tues	4:15	7:30	

Chris Evans, Dakota Fanning
Thriller Supernatural • Rated PG 13

Pink Panther 2

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:10
Mon and Tues	4:10	7:10	

Steve Martin, Andy Garcia
Comedy, Mystery • Rated PG

Taken

Friday	4:30	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:15
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:15
Mon and Tues	4:30	7:15	

Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace
Action, Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

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Man's false online profile is about to rear its ugly head

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am part of a group of people who read our local newspaper online and comment on the news of the day in the public forums provided. It's great fun and offers an excellent place to interact with others.

Some of us have become close, exchanging e-mails and chat messages. One of the women has suggested we all get together at a local watering hole and meet each other, and the gang has agreed.

I would love to join in, but the problem is that the persona I built online is that of a hunky, handsome young man — including a pilfered photo I posted as “me” on my profile. Needless to say, he is NOT me. I am a 54-year-old, chubby, graying man who wears glasses.

I would love to meet these people, but I'm embarrassed about the lies I have told them. Some of the women have flirted with me, thinking I am this sexy guy. How can I fix this so we can all be friends? I am afraid they'll be angry at my ruse.

ABS OF SPONGE

DEARABS OF SPONGE: Keep your sense of humor, wear a name tag that reads “Guess Who?” and when they ask who you are, remind them people shouldn't believe everything they read. You are by far not the only person to “fudge” by a few years—or a few pounds—in describing oneself. In fact, you may be surprised to discover that you weren't the only creative writer in the group.

P.S. Your true identity may be the most interesting “news flash” at the gathering.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I plan to be married this spring. We have been engaged for 18 months, and he is a wonderful person. We are recent college graduates with good jobs and plan to continue working.

I recently inherited a large sum of money from my aunt, and my parents have recommended that I have a prenuptial agreement to protect my assets. My fiance has no substantial assets.

Abby, you have always stated that trust is one of the most important things in a relationship. Would it show a lack of trust if I ask for a prenup? When do you recommend one?

TRUSTING IN ALABAMA

DEAR TRUSTING: I recommend a prenuptial agreement when there is a discrepancy in the amount of assets each partner is bringing to the marriage. Because you have doubts about having one, you should discuss the matter with an attorney. To ask your fiance to sign a prenup is not an indication that you don't trust him. On the contrary, his reluctance to sign one could be regarded as a lack of trust in you.

However, before the document is signed, it must be reviewed by an independent attorney (not yours) to ensure that your fiance's interests are also protected.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: One of my teachers at school wears jeans and a T-shirt every day. None of the other teachers dresses so casually.

I mentioned it to my mom, and we both think it is unprofessional. Do you agree? If so, should we say something to the principal—although I would imagine he already knows?

TAKEN ABACK, CHEYENNE, WYO.

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: I do agree. And I am surprised that there isn't some kind of written dress code for the staff at your school. But allow me to offer a suggestion. Instead of your bringing this to the attention of the principal, the message might be better received if it was delivered by your mother.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Benicio del Toro meets Venezuela's Chavez



In this photo released by Miraflores Press Office, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, left, speaks to Puerto Rico actor Benicio del Toro during a meeting at the Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Socialist President Hugo Chavez met with a 21st-century incarnation of one of the world's biggest revolutionary icons Wednesday: actor Benicio del Toro, who stars in the new film chronicling the life of Ernesto “Che” Guevara.

Del Toro met with Chavez during a visit in which he also was mobbed by adoring fans and attended a screening of Steven Soderbergh's two-part, 4 1/2-hour film biography “Che.”

The Puerto Rican-born, Oscar-winning actor said he sought the lead role in “Che” because he wanted to be part of a “totally Latin American” movie.

Del Toro did not speak in detail about his meeting with Chavez, but said he had “a good time with the president.”

“He's nice,” the actor told journalists following the encounter at the presidential palace.

After his arrival on Tuesday, Del Toro attended the

screening of the film at a bullfighting ring-turned cultural center. Young women mobbed the 42-year-old actor when he entered, some of them pushing past bodyguards to give him a hug or kiss on the cheek.

He also visited the state-run Cinema Town, a film production facility that Chavez inaugurated in 2006 with \$13 million in government funding. It was launched to help Venezuela produce its own films as an alterna-

AP

tive to what Chavez calls Hollywood's “cultural imperialism.”

Chavez has hosted visits by various Hollywood stars including Sean Penn, Danny Glover and Kevin Spacey.

Del Toro visited Venezuela along with Mexican actor Damian Bichir, who plays Fidel Castro in the film. “Che” chronicles the life of Guevara, an Argentine doctor who became a hero of the Cuban revolution and a global icon.

No Doubt giving catalog away with some tickets



AP

In this Feb. 6, 2008 file photo, Singer Gwen Stefani of the band “No Doubt” arrives at “A Night to Benefit Raising Malawi and UNICEF” at United Nations headquarters in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Fans who buy premium seats online to No Doubt's upcoming concerts will get a little something extra with their tickets—a download of the group's entire catalog, plus a new song from the reunited band.

The offer applies to tickets in the \$80 to \$106 range for most shows. An announcement by the band says fans would get No Doubt's entire seven albums digitally plus a new song, “Stand and Deliver.”

Fans who buy cheaper seats won't get in on the deal, which will be available until 30 days after the tour ends.

The tour is set to begin in Atlantic City, N.J., on May 2 and will run until August.

Tickets go on sale Saturday.

DA: Chris Brown expected in court Thursday



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors say Chris Brown is expected in a Los Angeles court Thursday, despite that they have yet to file charges.

District Attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison said Wednesday that Brown is required to appear based on a date scheduled after his Feb. 8 arrest.

The 19-year-old R&B singer was booked on suspicion of making criminal threats after police say a woman identified him as her attacker. A person familiar with the incident but not authorized to speak publicly identified the woman as Brown's girlfriend, Rihanna.

Police presented their case weeks ago, but prosecutors asked for more information. Brown remains free on \$50,000 bail. A call placed to his attorney, Mark Geragos, was not returned Wednesday afternoon.

In this Feb. 7, 2009 file photo, Chris Brown arrives at the Clive Davis pre-Grammy party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP

Taylor Swift among nominees for ACM top album

NEW YORK (AP)—Things just keep getting better for Taylor Swift: Besides having the No. 1 album in the country, she's been nominated for album of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards.

Swift joins George Strait, Jamey Johnson, Carrie Underwood and Montgomery Gentry as the nominees for top album at the ACM Awards. Most of the nominees were announced last month, but on Thursday, the academy announced another batch of nominees.

Swift was nominated for “Fearless”; the 19-year-old's sophomore album has helped her move from a country sensation to pop's newest superstar.

Swift will perform at the ACM Awards along with Toby

Keith, Rascal Flatts, Sugarland, Miranda Lambert, Heidi Newfield and Tim McGraw.

The April 5 awards will be held in Las Vegas and aired live on CBS.



AP

In this image released by CBS, Taylor Swift, left speaks with George Eads in a scene from “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation” airing Thursday, March 5 at 9:00 p.m. EDT on the CBS Television Network.

Brad Pitt to meet with Nancy Pelosi in Washington

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mr. Pitt is going Washington.

Nancy Pelosi's office says Brad Pitt is set to meet with the Speaker of the House on Thursday to discuss the 45-year-old actor's charity efforts in New Orleans.

Pitt founded “Make It Right” in 2007 to help build environmentally sustainable housing for low-income residents in New Orleans who lost their homes during Hurricane Katrina. He was nominated for a best-actor Oscar for “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.”

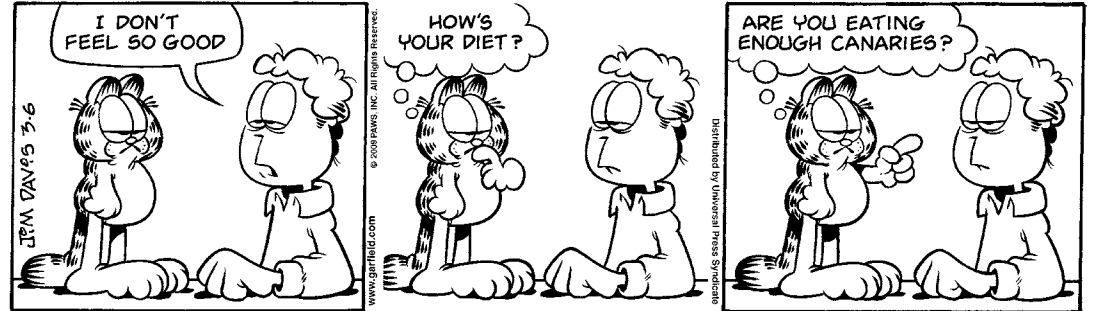
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

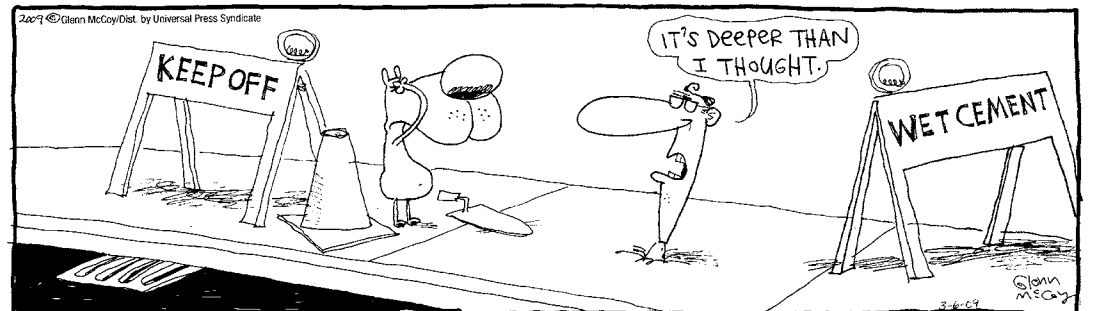
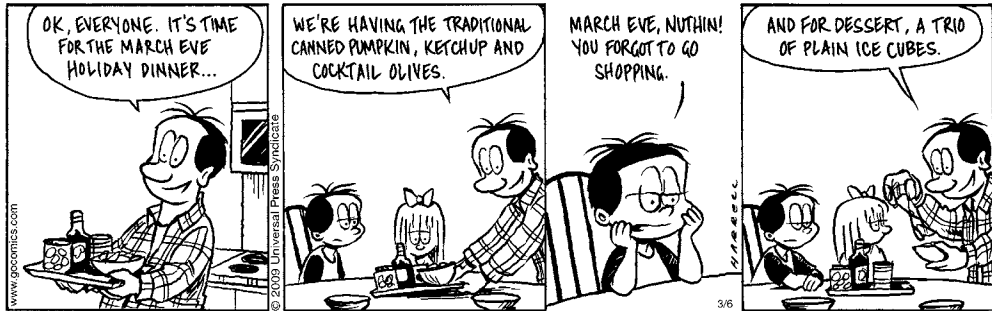


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Keep it down!"
4 Touch
8 Consider
12 Sailor's assent
13 Clean
14 Gumbo ingredient
15 Track star, maybe
17 Round figure?
18 Recluse
19 Banjo's kin
21 Which-ever
22 Discontent time?
26 Yuletide punch-bowl fill
29 Phone transmission
30 Galena, e.g.
31 Peregrinate
32 Snoop
33 Cheshire countenance
34 Lemieux milieu
35 Fella

DOWN

1 Cumberbund
2 Advertise big-time
3 Frau's mate
4 Canopy
5 Nuts
6 Work with
7 High-speed road
8 Donut-shop order
9 — out a living
10 Screw up
11 VIP in China's history
16 Mirror's offering
20 Breakfast-cereal name
23 Spelling or
24 Green land
25 "Monopoly"
26 Suitcase
27 Places
28 It takes the cake
29 Sauté
32 Sticklers
33 First American orbiter
35 Jewel
36 Type of layered rock
38 Diminish gradually
39 Lecher's looks
42 Leave a good impression?
43 Posterior
44 Weaponry
45 Despondent
46 Copper head?
47 "Mamma —!"
49 Shooter ammo

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	O	L	D	S	E	E	K	W	A	G
A	J	A	R	I	V	A	N	A	V	E
W	A	T	E	R	G	A	T	E	N	
L	I	E	S	I	N	A	L	E	R	T
	S	O		H	E	D	E	R		
A	C	H		F	A	R		A	L	S
T	O	O		U	Z	I		O	U	R
V	O	T	E	M	E	N		B	O	M
	W	A	L	E	S		M			
S	P	A	R	E		O	O	L	O	N
O	R	T		G	O	L	D	W	A	T
D	O	E		A	V	I	D		W	I
A	P	R		L	A	S	S		S	C

Yesterday's answer 3-6

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Eli Marienthal, 23; Shaquille O'Neal, 37; D.L. Hughley, 46; Rob Reiner, 62

Happy Birthday: Whether it's getting fit, learning a new skill or just getting to know yourself better, get into self-improvement this year. The benefits will be far beyond your expectations. Don't let emotional matters cloud your vision or hold you back. Look forward with optimism and set new strategies to reach your goals. Your numbers are 4, 16, 22, 27, 30, 34, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take note of anyone trying to derail your plans. Emotions will flare but that may be the only way to deal with matters that have been dragging you down. Change at home and at work are needed to make your life better. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't give away your secrets. Less is more and the fact that someone is probably trying to undermine you is apparent. You can outsmart the opposition if you recognize the tactics being used and reverse the process. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone convincing may try to lead you in a different direction. Take what is said to heart but don't take action for the wrong reason. Uncertainty or lack of confidence will hold you back. Believe in yourself. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have trouble controlling your emotions. You mustn't get involved in something or donate to something for the wrong reason. If you are doing it to impress someone, you are making a mistake. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your decision must be your own. Love may be overwhelming but that doesn't mean you have to become a clone of the person you admire. Don't make a financial move based on what you are told or what someone else wants. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A partnership that has been iffy can now be established with some rules and guidelines to ensure prosperity. A decision you make now will bring you greater freedom in the future. Look at what's ahead. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You are on a roll and you cannot let anyone bring you down or put you down. Rise above any negative comments. It may be time to walk away from people in your life who are not conducive to your well-being or success. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You have to follow your own path, not someone else's. Change is evident and a sudden or unexpected encounter will help you realize your own potential. Travel, experience and research will all help you obtain your goals. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You should concentrate on home, family and sticking to a budget. You can make personal changes that will enhance your relationships and your comfort if you are willing to cut costs. Don't try to impress others by overspending. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Size up the situation and prepare to make

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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changes to improve your current relationships. What you do should take others by surprise. This will give you an edge, keep you in control and help you mold the outcome. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can secure your position or stabilize your personal life by taking on a part time job or picking up additional skills. Don't be fooled by someone who wants to control you. He or she does not have your best interests at heart. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get involved in something you enjoy and you will hook up with someone who thinks as you do. If you want to form a partnership, keep emotions out of it and set the rules regarding who is responsible for what before you get started. *****

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, compassionate, have a vivid imagination and are creative. You are wise and thoughtful.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

5			6		2	4		1
		7						
6			9				5	
7								9
		4		2		8		
3								7
	2			4				5
					9			
4		6	1	7				3

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	4	1	8	2	5	6	3	7
5	6	7	3	1	9	2	4	8
8	3	2	4	7	6	9	1	5
1	9	3	7	6	4	5	8	2
7	8	5	2	3	1	4	6	9
6	2	4	5	9	8	1	7	3
2	1	8	6	5	3	7	9	4
3	7	9	1	4	2	8	5	6
4	5	6	9	8	7	3	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/00

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS

Solution: 9 letters

R	E	R	G	N	O	R	T	S	N	I	S	U	O	C
T	E	I	O	L	A	I	C	O	S	C	H	O	O	L
E	E	H	R	T	C	E	P	S	E	R	S	S	O	A
S	M	N	T	E	N	U	L	M	A	T	E	N	Y	U
E	S	O	R	E	D	E	P	T	H	C	O	D	T	G
C	S	E	T	E	G	A	M	E	N	I	R	S	L	H
N	E	S	M	I	T	O	R	A	T	O	S	I	A	T
E	I	U	E	I	O	N	T	A	C	I	F	L	Y	E
I	T	O	O	S	T	N	I	C	M	E	I	G	O	R
R	I	P	P	S	I	C	A	I	F	A	M	I	L	Y
E	V	S	U	A	O	S	L	L	M	V	C	F	O	Y
P	I	R	U	S	N	A	T	U	R	E	A	T	N	O
X	T	Q	S	E	R	A	C	E	E	V	O	L	G	J
E	C	A	R	B	M	E	M	O	R	A	L	S	U	N
A	A	C	L	O	S	E	N	E	S	S	H	A	R	E

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3/6

Accord, Acquaintances, Activities, Association, Camaraderie, Care, Closeness, Cousins, Depth, Embrace, Emotional, Enjoy, Experiences, Family, Gift, Internet, Laughter, Life, Long, Love, Loyalty, Mail, Mentor, Morals, Nature, Poem, Respect, School, Share, Similar, Sisters, Social, Spouse, Strong, Times, Together, Trust, Value

Yesterday's Answer: Sarma

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, this book is on sale for just \$4.99 (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Press Syndicate). Includes \$2 postage for the first book order. Call for each additional book. Send to: Wonderword, 1150 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-622-5450. Order online at upuzzles.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Daniel Magofna Sablan and Josepha Norita Sablan
P.O. Box 502341
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 322-0564

PRO SE
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF DEIONDRE DYLAN NORITA SABLAN
Minor Child,

By: DANIELE MAGOFNA SABLAN and JOSEPHA NORITA SABLAN, Petitioner.

FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0131

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on the 9th day of April, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 5th day of March, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN

Must know:

- Microsoft SQL Server
- Microsoft Server OS
- Networking

Must be able to:

- Implement software project
- Conduct training

Travel and Transit USA
Salary \$25,000/yr plus for experience

Contact: garysword@gmail.com

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

gallon gallon
gallon gallon
gallon gallon
gallon gallon
gallon gallon

PANAMA

Find today's solution in this section

WHATZIT Solution:
Ten-gallon hat

AUTOMOTIVE

Looking for used cars, Nissan, Echo, Corrola & Camry. Year 2000 thru 2005 models. We pay cash. Call 287-7676. Monday-Friday.

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedroom, 1 bathroom house centrally located in Garapan, equipped with a water tank, air conditioners in every room, nice, safe, and friendly neighborhood. NMHC applicants welcome.
Please call 483-3848/285-2713 for more information.

DRUNK DRIVING

Over the limit.
Under arrest.

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235-NEWS



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



March 2-6, 2009 has been proclaimed by Acting Governor Timothy Villagomez as CNMI School Counselor's week. The CNMI School counselors are actively committed to helping students of the CNMI to explore their ability, strength, interest, and talent. They work with parents, other educators, and the community to help students explore their potential, achieve success in school, and become productive members of society.

Counselor Name	School Name
Paulette T. Sablan	Garapan Elementary School
Liela C. Yumul	Garapan Elementary School
Cherlyn Cabrera	Marianas High School
Christopher Cabrera	Marianas High School
Hazel Tudela	Marianas High School
Sarona Vivao	Marianas High School
Rebecca Flores	WSR Elementary School
Patty Mendoza	Hopwood Jr. High School
Betty Blau	Hopwood Jr. High School
Vanessa Mobel	Hopwood Jr. High School
Darah Tagabuel	Saipan Southern High School
Jocelyn Manibusan	Saipan Southern High School
Joleen Borja	Saipan Southern High School
Erica Thornburgh	Koblerville Elementary School
Marsha Arriola	San Vicente Elementary Sch.
Amparo Quitugua	Kagman Elementary School
Janice Muna	Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School
Carmen Sablan	Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School
Emily Camacho	Kagman High School
Sharon San Nicolas	Kagman High School
Shirley Norita	Kagman High School
Rinenta Hofshneider	Tinian Elementary School
Patricia Aguon	Tinian Jr./Sr. High School
Debbie Ellen	Rota High School



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



The CNMI Public School System State Board of Education, Commissioner of Education, and the Leadership Team extend their sincerest congratulations to the 2009 Framingham State College graduates for their achievement in the Master of Education degree that commenced on February 28, 2009 at Multi-purpose center.

The Graduates include the following:

Angel, Amanda Lynn Benavente	Classroom Teacher, WSR Elementary School
Ayuyu, Adeline Michelle Jones	Classroom Teacher, Hopwood Jr. High School,
Borja, Victorino N.	Classroom Teacher, Hopwood Jr. High School
Buniag, Jennifer Smithee	Special Education Classroom Teacher, Garapan Elementary School, Cepeda
Charlotte Palacios-Reyes	Classroom Teacher, Oleai Elementary School
Diaz, Jerry Nario	Early Childhood Teacher
Deleon Guerrero, Katelynn Mathilde	Classroom Teacher, GTC Elementary School
Guerrero, Elmie Cabaccang	Special Education Teacher, Oleai Elementary School
Kenty, Charley	Human Resources Officer, PSS Human Resources Office
Mafnas, Joelyn Palacios	Classroom Teacher, Oleai Elementary School
Manglona, Lou Connie Blas	Classroom Teacher, Tinian Elementary School
Mendiola, Sherwin Tumbokon	Classroom Teacher, San Vicente Elementary School
Mendoza, Maria Corazon B.	Classroom Teacher, WSR Elementary School
Palacios, Coreen Castro	Professional Development Specialist, PSS Human Resources Office
Reyes, Yvette Mendoza	Classroom Teacher, San Vicente Elementary School
Sablan, James Deleon Guerrero	Classroom Teacher, Oleai Elementary School
Sablan, Paulette Tomokane	School Counselor, Garapan Elementary School
San Nicolas, Jennifer Sarangelo	Classroom Teacher, Tinian Elementary School
Santos, Dionne Barcinas	Classroom Teacher, Tinian Elementary School
Takai, Reanna	Classroom Teacher, WSR Elementary School
Tuttle, James P.	Classroom Teacher, Marianas High School
Waldo, Ednaly A.	Special Education Teacher, Marianas High School



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Capital Improvement Program - Office of the Governor
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2402 • Fax.: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
FOR PROVISION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES
RFQ09-GOV-062

Garapan Tourist District Storm Water Conceptual Study

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez through the Office of Capital Improvement (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting Statements of Qualifications for the provision of civil engineering services for the conceptual examination of alternative methods to resolve the Garapan Tourist District Storm Water Issues.

The Commonwealth seeks engineering services to identify and analyze the various alternatives for control of pollutants being discharged onto the beaches from the Garapan Tourist District. Analysis should begin with a review of existing data and previous analysis and build upon this base. Specifically, previous work entitled "Field Investigations and Conceptual Alternative Development" by the engineering firm of Winzler & Kelly (November 2004) should be consulted. Additional documentation should be reviewed in order to quantify and qualify storm water in the Garapan Tourist District. Information gained from examination of existing data should then be used to identify and provide conceptual examination of alternatives for treatment and control of storm water in this area. This examination should identify estimated costs, permitting requirements, and treatment and control parameters. This information will be used by the Commonwealth to make decisions on selection of design. Specific details concerning project requirements are identified in the scope of work.

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work and submittal requirements ("Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements") at the Office of Capital Improvement 1356 Mednilla Ave. Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Monday through Friday, except holidays). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements. A pre-proposal conference is scheduled for this RFQ on March 18, 2009 at 9 a.m. in the Office of Procurement & Supply.

Selection of individuals for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations § 7070-30.3-305. Five copies of qualifications should be submitted to the Commonwealth Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 in a sealed envelope marked "Garapan Tourist District Storm Water Study Qualifications, RFQ09-GOV-062"

Qualifications must be received prior to noon of April 13, 2009 ("Closing Date") from individuals or firms residing within the Commonwealth. Individuals or firms residing outside the Commonwealth may receive an additional five (5) calendar days from the Closing Date for receipt of their qualifications, upon filing a notice of intent to submit qualifications ("Notice of Intent") with the Division of Procurement & Supply by 11:00 a.m. local time April 6, 2009. Notice of Intent may be transmitted in any of the following forms: direct delivery; transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515; or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com; however, the individual or firm transmitting a Notice of Intent bears all risk of proper functioning of equipment. For proposer's located outside the CNMI who have filed a Notice of Intent, all required documents must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of the foreign country no later than the Closing Date and must be received no later than five calendar days after the Closing Date.

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following factors:

1. Proposed technical approach 35%
2. Prior experience in storm water design 20%
3. References 10%
4. Interview 35%

Interviews will be conducted with the individuals who are determined to have the most appropriate qualifications for the needs of the Commonwealth.

This project is funded through grants from the United States Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) with local matching funds. Contract award is contingent upon approval from DOI.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the government. All submitted documents shall become the property of the Commonwealth.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-007

REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BOATING SAFETY SMILING COVE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Repair and Renovation of Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Smiling Cove, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after February 20, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further **Amended by Public Law 15-118** and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on March 11, 2009, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Boating Safety Smiling Cove. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on March 18, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 2343547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-007"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time March 23, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time March 23, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 23, 2009, and must be received no later than April 02, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, April 07, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 p.m. local time, on March 27, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (**120**) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US\$100.00**) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

Unhappy return for Shaq, as Heat top Suns



MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade gave Shaquille O'Neal plenty of wins with the Miami Heat. Wade wasn't being cooperative this time with O'Neal in an opponent's jersey.

Wade scored 35 points and tied his career high with 16 assists, Michael Beasley and Daequan Cook combined to score 55 points off Miami's bench, and the Heat spoiled Shaq's return with a 135-129 win over the Phoenix Suns.

Beasley scored 28 points—the most by a Heat player besides Wade this season—and nine rebounds. Cook added 27 points and Miami led for all but a portion of the opening minutes on the way to the second-highest point total in franchise history.

O'Neal finished with 22 points and eight rebounds before fouling out with 1:08 left. Steve Nash led Phoenix with 29 points and 10 assists, and Jason Richardson added 22 points for the Suns.

The night started with Shaq and the star he dubbed Flash hugging. By the end, things seemed downright testy.

O'Neal fouled Wade with 1:21 left, then stood over him Muhammad Ali-style until Udonis Haslem nudged him O'Neal out of the way to help up Miami's best player. Wade made both free throws for a 127-119 lead, and cries of "M-V-P" drowned out a profane anti-Shaq chant from some in the crowd.

And on the next Miami possession, it was over for The Big Fella. Wade drove on him again to draw Shaq's sixth foul, and all O'Neal could do was meander slowly to the bench.

Until last week, only one Heat player had ever managed 30 points and 15 assists in a game. Wade has now done it twice in his last five outings, and seemed to play with a purpose in this one.

Cavaliers 91, Bucks 73

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 23 points, Delonte West had 13 and a career-high eight steals and the Cleveland Cavaliers became the first team to clinch a spot in the NBA playoffs by beating the Milwaukee Bucks in a potential first-round series preview.

At 48-12, the Cavaliers wrapped up their fourth straight postseason berth with more than one month left in the regular season. The Cavs moved 36 games over .500 for the first time and improved their league-best record at home to 27-1.

Mo Williams scored 15 against his former team and Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 14 for Cleveland, which lowered its magic for winning the Central Division to six.

Richard Jefferson scored 29 for the Bucks.

Jazz 101, Rockets 94

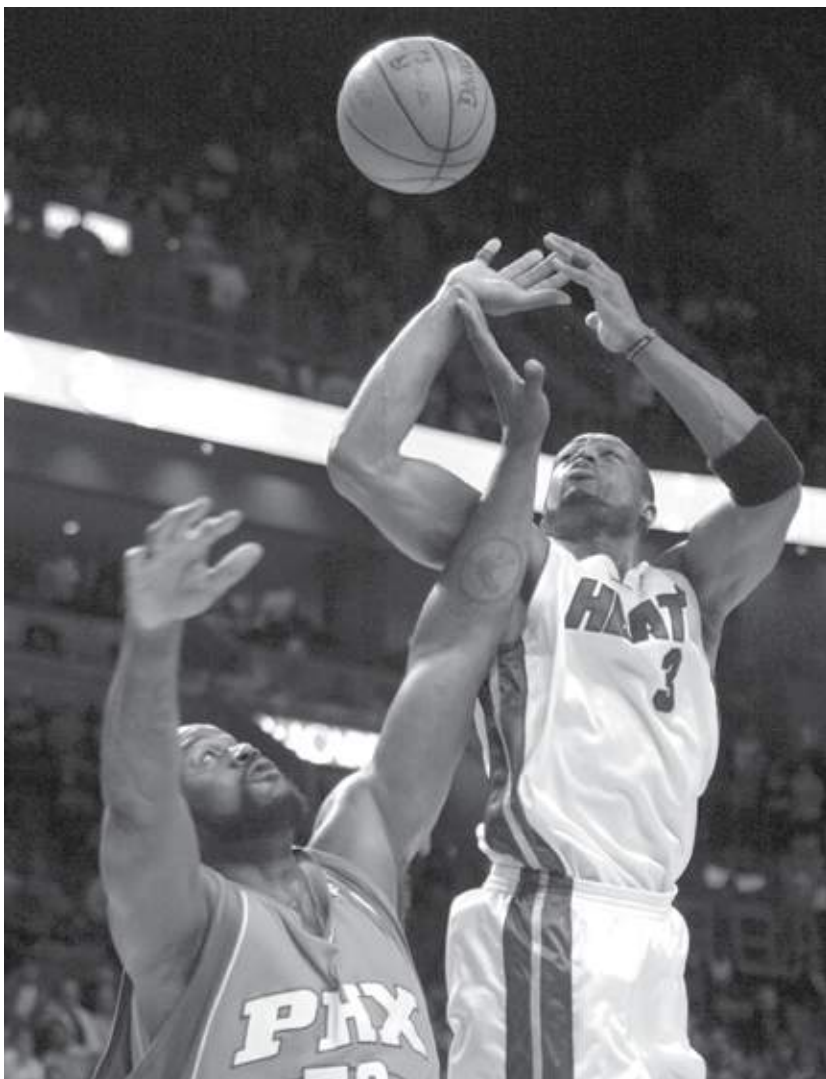
At Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer had 20 points and 17 rebounds in his best game since his return from a three-month absence and Utah won its ninth straight.

Deron Williams scored 10 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, including a 20-foot jumper with 21 seconds left after Houston got within three points. Williams also had 14 assists for the surging Jazz, who have won 10 straight at home.

Ron Artest scored 25 points to lead Houston and Yao Ming had 19 points and six assists before fouling out with 1:23 left to play.

Mavericks 107, Spurs 102

At Dallas, Josh Howard scored 29 points,



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade, right, is fouled as he goes up for a shot against Phoenix Suns center Shaquille O'Neal during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 4, 2009 in Miami.

including a key layup in the final minute, Jason Kidd hit a clutch 3-pointer with 31 seconds left and Dallas beat San Antonio.

The Mavericks were thumped Monday night in Oklahoma City by a Thunder team missing its two leading scorers. On Tuesday, owner Mark Cuban questioned his team's effort and commitment, threatening to get rid of anyone he didn't think was trying.

Erick Dampier had nine points and four blocks, and also pestered Tim Duncan into a 7-for-21 night.

Duncan had 19 points and 12 rebounds, but didn't score in the second quarter and had only eight points in the second half as the Spurs lost for the third time in four games.

Trail Blazers 107, Pacers 105

At Portland, Ore., Brandon Roy scored 28 points, including a pair of game-clinching free throws with 1.7 seconds left, and Portland won its 10th straight at home.

The Blazers trailed by as many as 14 points in the second half.

The victory also snapped Portland's nine-game losing streak against Indiana. The Pacers had won four straight at the Rose Garden.

Marquis Daniels had 28 points for the Pacers. Troy Murphy had 11 points and 13 rebounds for his ninth straight double-double.

Knicks 109, Hawks 105

At New York, Larry Hughes scored 23 points to continue his turnaround from a rocky start with his new team, and New York snapped a three-game losing streak.

Al Harrington had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Danilo Gallinari scored a career-high 17 points for the Knicks, who got March off to a good start after a 3-10 February that damaged their hopes of making the playoffs in Mike D'Antoni's first season.

The Knicks entered the night three games behind eighth-place Milwaukee in the race for the final Eastern Conference spot.

Al Horford had 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Hawks, who are trying to hold off Miami and Detroit for fourth place in the East.

Celtics 115, Nets 111

At East Rutherford, N.J., Paul Pierce scored 31 points and hit a game-winning 17-footer with 20.9 seconds to play to lead Boston.

Ray Allen, who tied the game at 111 with a clutch 3-pointer with 1:05 to play, iced the contest with two free throws with 7.5 seconds to play.

Seconds earlier, Vince Carter had a potential game-tying drive bounce off the rim.

Rajon Rondo added 20 points as the Celtics shot 61.2 percent from the field in beating the Nets for the third time this season. Kendrick Perkins had 17 points and 13 rebounds and Allen finished with 16 points.

Carter had 34 points for New Jersey and Devin Harris added 25 points and 11 assists.

Thunder 88, Wizards 83

At Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook and Thabo Sefolosha made big baskets in the final 2 minutes, helping Oklahoma City to its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Sefolosha made a reverse layup with 1:47 to play, pushing Oklahoma City's lead to 84-81. A jumper by Westbrook with 33.3 seconds remaining stretched the lead to five and Nenad Krstic added two free throws with 9.5 seconds left.

Krstic finished with 18 points, Sefolosha had 15 and Westbrook 12 with eight assists for the Thunder.

Antawn Jamison had 29 points and 10

rebounds for Washington, which failed to score in the final 2 1/2 minutes.

Bulls 110, Warriors 88

At Chicago, John Salmons had 23 points and seven rebounds, Joakim Noah added 14 points and 17 rebounds and Chicago beat Golden State.

Brad Miller finished with 19 points and six rebounds for Chicago, and Derrick Rose finished with 14 points and six assists. The Bulls pulled into a tie with Milwaukee for eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

The Bulls, coming off a 16-point loss to Charlotte the previous night, pulled away early in the fourth quarter. Tyrus Thomas' dunk sparked a 6-0 run to start the period, and Miller's jumper put the Bulls up 81-62 with 10:09 left.

Stephen Jackson led the Warriors with 19 points and six assists.

Grizzlies 118, Clippers 95

Rudy Gay scored 20 of his season-high 35 points in the third quarter and Memphis snapped an eight-game losing streak.

The victory was only the fourth on the road this season for the Grizzlies, three of them coming against Pacific Division teams. Rookie center Marc Gasol had 20 points, along with eight rebounds and a career-high 10 assists. Hakeem Warrick added 17 points.

Al Thornton scored 25 points for the Clippers, who lost their fourth straight and have lost 30 games by double-digit margins—the most in the league and one more than Memphis.

Former USC star O.J. Mayo had 18 points on 7-for-15 shooting for Memphis.

Dodgers, Ramirez agree on 2-year, \$45M contract



LOS ANGELES

(AP)—The winter of discontent in Mannywood is over. Manny Ramirez and the Los Angeles Dodgers officially agreed Wednesday on a \$45 million, two-year contract that keeps him with the NL West champions. The slugger can void the second season of the deal and again become a free agent. The stalemate was broken during a 6 a.m. meeting that brought the sides face-to-face at owner Frank McCourt's Malibu home.

The gathering came after weeks of protracted negotiations that led to starts, stops, offers and subsequent rejections.

At times, McCourt's frustration with Ramirez's agent Scott Boras surfaced, with the owner describing the agent as "challenging to work with."

All that was forgotten on a rainy late-winter morning when Ramirez surfaced in the Malibu mist to rejoin the team and city that embraced him after he left Boston at the July 31 trade deadline.

"We got a great meeting," Ramirez told KCAL-TV as he emerged from a mandatory physical in suburban Inglewood. "I'm happy to be here. We got some unfinished business, and that's why I'm here."

The Dodgers confirmed the deal shortly after Ramirez passed the physical. He is set to meet with the media Thursday morning in Phoenix.

Ramirez gets \$10 million this year, and \$15 million in deferred money with no interest, payable in \$5 million installments each Jan. 15 from 2010 through 2012. If it winds up as a two-year deal, he gets \$10 million each season, with three payments of \$8,333,333 each Jan. 15 from 2011-13.

Ramirez has until November to decide whether to void the second season.

Los Angeles' original offer was for \$45 million in guaranteed money, including a \$4 million buyout of a 2011 option, and gave the Dodgers the ability to maintain control of Ramirez through 2012. It also did not include the no-trade provision.

Ramirez will make a \$1 million commitment to the Dodgers Dream Foundation as part of the deal.

"We are thrilled that Manny wants to be a Dodger and that he has made such a tremendous commitment to the Los

Angeles community," McCourt said in a statement. "We witnessed something very special last year in the way that our fans connected with him and the manner in which the team came together. Now, we focus our complete and undivided attention on our primary goal, winning a world championship."

The left fielder was believed to be seeking a four- or five-year deal that would take him through the end of his career. He turns 37 in May.

But Ramirez found it tough going in a recession-plagued free agent market, with the Dodgers the only team to acknowledge pursuing the 12-time All-Star.

Ramirez helped Los Angeles win the division by hitting .396 with 17 homers and 53 RBIs in 53 regular-season games. In the playoffs, he batted .520 with four homers, 10 RBIs, nine runs and 11 walks in eight games.

"We all wanted the same thing and that's what was apparent to me," said Dodgers manager Joe Torre, who left spring training in Arizona with general manager Ned Colletti to attend the Malibu get-together.

"After last year and the time he spent with us, we knew we wanted him back. It was just a matter of finding that common ground," Torre said. "As Ned said, you talk on the phone and to different people, you need to get face-to-face. It was a real good meeting. There was a lot of comfortable conversation."

Torre, Colletti and McCourt joined Boras and the agent's assistant at the session that took about three hours for the deal to fall into place.

"There was not one uncomfortable moment," Colletti said upon returning to Arizona later in the day. "It was more designed to put the personality back into the picture instead of just the negotiations. Manny seemed very happy and excited about the possibility, and I thought it was very good."

Torre described Ramirez as "chomping at the bit" to rejoin the Dodgers.

"We're trying to build a team here that fights together and sticks together and so it was imperative that we sit down with who would obviously be a very important member of the team," Colletti said.

Report: Cowboys cutting Terrell Owens

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Terrell Owens' days in Dallas are done, according to ESPN.

ESPN cited anonymous sources Wednesday night in saying that the Cowboys have decided to cut the receiver, ridding them of a big locker-room distraction but also absorbing a big hit on their salary cap.

The team did not immediately have a comment. A spokesman for Owens said he hadn't heard the news, and that Owens was traveling and could not immediately be reached. His agent, Drew Rosenhaus, also did not immediately return a call.

Just a few weeks ago, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones indicated that T.O. was staying when he said, "You and

I both know that the one that you're asking about all the time, if I gave you the answer that you want to hear, then you would've already had it. So the fact you don't have it ought to tell you something. It really should."

Jones seemed to enjoy the publicity Owens stirred up as much as the touchdowns he scored. However, there were several in-house issues involving Owens that may have ultimately prompted Jones to decide the receiver wasn't worth the trouble he caused.

Owens will count about \$9 million against the cap. His absence means one less high-profile player to open the Cowboys' new, \$1.1 billion stadium, and fewer No. 81 jerseys to sell.

While Tony Romo also will be without the recipient of most his touchdown

passes, he also will no longer have to make sure T.O. has enough passes his way to make him happy. Whether that was perception or reality will no longer matter either.

The Cowboys went 31-17 in Owens' three seasons, but 0-2 in the playoffs.

Jones essentially forced Owens on then-coach Bill Parcells, a relationship underscored by Parcells referring to Owens as "the player." Owens drew attention to himself during training camp by dressing up as a pro cyclist while riding a stationary bike, then had an accidental overdose early that season.

Yet when Parcells turned to unproven Romo midway through that season, Owens sparkled. They kept it up the next season, leading the Cowboys to all sorts of club records

on their way to a 13-3 season and a division title. The Cowboys lost their first playoff game, days after Romo and others went on a trip to Mexico, and Owens tearfully defended Romo, saying, "That's my quarterback."

Owens got a new contract last summer, a four-year, \$34 million deal that included a \$12 million bonus.

The best news for Owens would be if the cameras were rolling for the new reality TV show he has in the works when he got the news from the Cowboys.

Where might he end up next? That's sure to be the next drama, and perhaps more great fodder for his TV show.

He's not likely to return to San Francisco or Philadelphia, the other places he wore out his welcome. Then again, it seemed unlikely he would come to Dallas after having offended Cowboys fans by celebrating on the team's star logo while playing for the 49ers.

Don't expect him in Miami, not as long as Parcells is in charge. And perhaps also count out Kansas City because new coach Todd Haley and Owens hardly got along when Haley was Dallas' offensive coordinator.

The Cowboys should still have a potent passing game, at least if receiver Roy Williams can live up to his big contract and the two draft picks Dallas gave up to get him from Detroit. Romo also still has his favorite target, tight end Jason Witten.

Over three years with the Cowboys, Owens caught 235 passes for 3,587 yards and 38 touchdowns in 47 games. He led the NFL with 13 TDs receiving in 2006, his first season in Dallas.

Over his 13-year career, he's a five-time All-Pro and ranks second in career touchdowns, fifth in career yards receiving and sixth in career receptions. He turned 35 in December, but remains a physical specimen.

Kurt Warner stays with Cardinals with \$23M deal

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—Kurt Warner wound up right where he wanted to be, with a hefty pay raise to return to the Arizona team he led to the Super Bowl. The 37-year-old quarterback agreed to terms Wednesday on a two-year, \$23 million contract with the Cardinals.

"I love what we've been doing," Warner said. "I love what we've been building here."

The deal includes a \$15 million signing bonus. Combined with a \$4 million salary for the first year of the contract, \$19 million is guaranteed.

"We're ecstatic about the commitment the organization has made to us," Warner said. "Now it's my job for the next two years to go fulfill my part of the deal."

He believes it's his final NFL

contract.

"You never say never," Warner said, "but I'm old."

He had talked about needing time after the season to decide whether to retire, a thought that turned out to be fleeting.

"Probably two days after the Pro Bowl all that was on my mind was football," Warner said. "I told my wife, 'Sorry honey, it's not time.'"

He said he understands that he's getting a lot of money in a time of financial hardship for so many.

"You know the numbers are staggering, and to add to that the economy and where people are struggling, it's tough," Warner said. "But all I know is I've worked hard to get to the point that I'm at, to be in this position and have opportunities like this and I

don't regret that fact.

"The fact is that's the market for what I do. I'm fortunate for that and I'm blessed in so many ways."

Warner and his wife Brenda made a highly publicized visit to the San Francisco 49ers on Monday, but he said he knew quickly that he wanted to return to the Cardinals.

"I told my wife probably 45 minutes into it that I just felt God say 'You're supposed to be in Arizona,'" Warner said, "and I told her that. She tried to tell me to stay open, but He just continued to confirm it."

While the 49ers are planning a run-oriented offense, the Cardinals were among the best passing teams in the NFL, with a trio of outstanding receivers in Larry Fitzgerald, Anquan Boldin and Steve Breaston.

Ravens reach agreement with Ray Lewis, Matt Birk

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)—The Baltimore Ravens brought back a famous Pro Bowl player and added another one, too. Linebacker Ray Lewis will finish his career with the Ravens after reaching agreement on a three-year deal with Baltimore, which also agreed with center Matt Birk on Wednesday.

"From beginning to end as a Raven. ... Wow!" To be with the same team with the same fans for an entire career, that doesn't happen in the NFL," Lewis said after concluding negotiations on a deal worth nearly \$22 million. "I don't think an athlete can have a greater legacy than to be able to stay in one place for an entire career."

By keeping Lewis, the Ravens fill the void created at inside linebacker when Bart Scott signed with the New

York Jets.

"We got better today. Our football team got better. I am very happy," general manager Ozzie Newsome said. "This will allow Ray to finish his career as a Raven."

Birk, 32, replaces last year's starting center, Jason Brown, who signed a five-year, \$37.5 million contract with the St. Louis Rams.

"To add a player like Matt, who will also give us outstanding leadership, makes us a better team," coach John Harbaugh said. "We're not standing pat. We're moving forward and getting better."

Lewis earned his 10th Pro Bowl this season after leading the NFL's second-ranked defense with 160 tackles. He also had 3 1/2 sacks, three interceptions and two fumble recoveries.

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Docomo, IT&E regain form

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Docomo and IT&E returned to their winning ways after downing separate foes in the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Docomo played in the first game and outlasted Runnin' Rebels, 76-73, while IT&E pounded Quichocho Law Office in the fourth quarter en route to a 107-90 victory.

IT&E, which bowed to Ol'Aces Monday night, 94-102, now has a 7-3 record, booting out the Ol'Aces (6-3) from second place. Docomo snapped its four-game losing skid, improving to a 3-6 slate and tying Quichocho Law Office to fifth to sixth place in the team standings.

Docomo led from the opening tip and almost wasted an 11-point lead in the third quarter when Denard Norita, Robert Coldeen, Jr., and Jose

Tumaquip teamed up for the Runnin' Rebels' rally in the fourth quarter.

Two free throws from James Villacrusis and one each from David Palacios and Joe Villacrusis in the closing seconds of the game ended Runnin' Rebels' repeated comeback bids.

James Villacrusis top-scored for Docomo with 20 points and added 11 rebounds. Christopher Paul also had a double-double with 15 markers and 21 boards.

Runnin' Rebels dropped to a 2-7 slate and remained at the bottom of the team standings.

In the second game, IT&E waxed hot from downtown in the fourth quarter turning a 73-70 third-quarter lead to a 17-point win.

IT&E connected on six triples in the payoff period, as it outgunned Quichocho, 34-20.

Wowie Abuel buried three triples, Gyles Ruluked canned

two, and Bernardo Montano made one.

Quichocho drilled two early triples in the fourth period, one each from Ernie Moises and Bonbon Cadagat, but that was the best it could muster.

IT&E had six of its nine players scoring in double figures. Andres "Jhun" Estolas Jr. fired 19 markers, Peter Mendiola chipped in 17, Kae Bernardo and Abuel had 16 apiece, and Ruluked and Montano added 15 and 11, respectively.

Sonny Lerio led Quichocho with 24 points, but he was held to only two points in the fourth quarter. Only two Quichocho players made more than one fieldgoal in the final canto with Cadagat scoring five points and Mel Capalad nailing four.

First Game
Docomo 76 – Ja. Villacrusis

20, Paul 15, Palacios 12, Fitial 12, Jo. Villacrusis 5, Mendez 4.

Runnin' Rebels 73 – Norita 17, Tumaquip 16, Iguel 12, Coldeen 11, Teregeyo 8, Kenty 4, Lisua 3, L. Rangamar 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-15, 37-33, 58-47, 76-73

Second Game
IT&E 107 – Estolas 19, Mendiola 17, Bernardo 16, Abuel 16, Ruluked 15, Montano 11, Mercurio 9, Artates 4.

Quichocho Law Office 90 – Lerio 24, Jugos 17, Cadagat 12, Palero 11, Moises 10, Capalad 4, Demapan 4, Doronilla 3, Tagle 2, Pantaleon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-25, 49-43, 73-70, 107-90.

Docomo's Christopher Paul, blocks the Runnin' Rebels Jose Tumaquip during their ame in the Budweiser caging Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



LADY

From Page 36

Lady Ayuyus' lone victory against the Lady Dolphins this season and San Nicolas was happy his wards delivered in the game that counted the most.

MHS won the first meeting by five points, 48-43, and made it 2-0 with a 57-48 triumph in the second outing.

"The girls were too emotional after losing to MHS twice in the regular season. But I told my players that the playoff round is what really counts and we must do our best to be in the finals. They all agreed that the playoff round is more important," San

Nicolas said.

The Lady Ayuyus passed the first hurdle to the finals after beating Mt. Carmel in the semifinals, 64-40.

In the finals, Kagman was off to a rough start, but San Nicolas did not press the panic button, as he believed with good defense and teamwork, the Lady Ayuyus could still pull it off.

"When we scored only four points in the first quarter, I said to my girls that there are three quarters left. We still had a lot of time, so calm down and have fun. We made adjustments in the second quarter, playing man-to-man defense. MHS' trapping defense was good, but we practiced on how to break that

press," San Nicolas said.

After trailing by 10 in the first quarter, 4-14, Kagman took the lead at halftime, 20-19. The Lady Ayuyus also had the driver's seat at the end of the third period, 38-33, before a 9-0 start in the fourth quarter allowed MHS to grab the lead, 42-38.

Then Mercedes Mesa, who took take over Ruluked's lead role on Kagman's offense, sparked the Lady Ayuyus' 9-0 run in 22 seconds, hitting back-to-back triples.

"Mesa's triple was a momentum shift for KHS squad. The team felt that, so they played like there was no tomorrow," San Nicolas said.

Mesa's trey put Kagman back

into the lead, 43-42, and the Lady Ayuyus made it a three-point lead on an Agatha Repeki layup after MHS missed on the other end.

After Repeki's layup, Yvonne Bennet stole an inbound pass, giving way to another Mesa triple.

A split from Stacie Mizutani gave Kagman a 50-42 lead, going into the last two minutes of the game and despite the eight-point lead, San Nicolas told his wards there's still no room for celebration.

"I had never felt that the title was in the bag for Kagman when we took the lead. Why? I always wait for the last buzzer of the game. I always tell my girls when you hear the last buzzer,

that is when you celebrate. I know this through experience," San Nicolas said.

"Mesa's second triple was one of the best things that happened to the team. Overall, Fri-

day's win was a result of team effort. Everybody did what they had to do—rebounding scoring, assisting, blocking, and stealing the ball," the KHS coach added.

KOREAN

From Page 36

second in the 2008 National Sports Festival.

Shin, 30 and stands at 6'5", is also a graduate of Kyunghee University. He played for Hyundai Motors in 2000, Sangmoo's

in 2002, and the Hyundai Capital's in 2004.

Ji Youn is competing on Saipan for the second straight year. The 28-year-old, 5'8" lady spiker played for the Suwon City Hall team and was champion in the 2000 Industry Federation Cup and Classified Women's Volleyball Tournaments.

Mi Hwa, 22 and stands 5'7" tall, teamed up with Ji Yuon. Her achievements include first place finishes in the 2007 and 2008 Hyundai Capital Cup and second place in the 2008 National Beach Volleyball Sports Festival. A pool of media practitioners from Korea's *AB-Road* magazine and *Maeil*

Economic Daily newspaper will be present to cover the longest running beach volleyball event in the Marianas.

The 2009 Marianas Cup kicked off with a free clinic with kids yesterday.

The tournament proper will be held tomorrow and continue on until Sunday.

FALCONS

From Page 36

the night that sent shortstop Jo Dikito to home plate to help Falcons stake to a 5-0 lead.

Reigning MVP Tyrone Omar scored the Young Guns' first run in the top of the sixth on an RBI double by Tony Palacios.

Young Guns got their second run from Ray Dela Cruz in the ninth via fielder's choice that momentarily posed a threat to Tanapag.

But with two outs against them, Jack Sablan failed to score for the Young Guns—Jay Camacho was also in second base—as Falcons pitcher Martin finished the game by striking out Emery Cruz.

It was the Young Guns' sec-

ond defeat in as many games after dropping their first assignment to reigning champion Rock Steady.

Rock Steady 10, Young Guns 5

Rock Steady currently leads the team standings with a 2-0 record after beating Young Guns, 10-5, last Feb. 27. They opened their title-retention bid with a scary 6-5 win over the Ford Rangers last Feb. 20.

Vince Sablan pitched for the defending champions and finished with 13 strikeouts, while allowing eight walks and seven hits, including two singles and five runs.

Young Guns took a 2-0 lead on runs by Omar and Tony Palacios in the bottom first, but Rock Steady ex-

ploded with five runs in the top of the third inning with John Reyes, Oliver Secharmidal, Toi Celis, Manny Sablan, and John Paul Lizama crossing home plate.

Rock Steady added two more in the fourth from Reyes and Secharmidal for a commanding 7-2 lead that they never relinquished.

Omar, Palacios, and Ken Villagomez sliced the lead with a run each in the fifth inning, 5-7, but Young Guns failed to sustain the rally as Rock Steady sealed the win with a run each from Lizama, Martin Pangelinan, and Ben Leon Guerrero in the ninth.

Ford Rangers 15, Korean Phoenix 6
Benwachi Taisacan made the

first homerun of the season to lead the Ford Rangers to a 15-6 blowout of Korean Phoenix last March 2.

The win was the Rangers' first in two outings as they made up for their 5-6 sorry defeat to Rock Steady in the season opener.

Taisacan finished with four RBIs, three runs, a homerun, and a double after going 2-for-5.

Juan Iguel added three runs with David Camacho, J.P. Sablan, Franco Flores, and Jesus Iguel logging in two apiece.

Korean Phoenix managed two runs in the fourth from Stanley Aldan and Steve Igisomar, one in the sixth from Jun Soo Won, and three in the eighth from Jang Jun Hyak, Cho Jin Geo, and Vince Cepeda.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES		
NBA STANDINGS		
EASTERN CONFERENCE		
Atlantic Division		
	W	L Pct GB
Boston	48	14 .774 —
Philadelphia	29	30 .492 17 1/2
New Jersey	27	34 .443 20 1/2
New York	25	35 .417 22
Toronto	23	39 .371 25
Central Division		
Cleveland	48	12 .800 —
Detroit	30	29 .508 17 1/2
Milwaukee	29	35 .453 21
Chicago	28	34 .452 21
Indiana	27	37 .422 23
Southeast Division		
Orlando	44	16 .733 —
Atlanta	34	27 .557 10 1/2
Miami	32	28 .533 12
Charlotte	26	35 .426 18 1/2
Washington	14	47 .230 30 1/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE		
Southwest Division		
San Antonio	40	20 .667 —
Houston	39	23 .629 2
New Orleans	37	22 .627 2 1/2
Dallas	37	24 .607 3 1/2
Memphis	15	44 .254 24 1/2
Northwest Division		
Denver	39	22 .639 —
Portland	38	22 .633 1/2
Utah	38	23 .623 1
Minnesota	18	42 .300 20 1/2
Oklahoma City	16	45 .262 23
Pacific Division		
LA Lakers	49	12 .803 —
Phoenix	34	27 .557 15
Golden State	21	40 .344 28
LA Clippers	15	46 .246 34
Sacramento	13	49 .210 36 1/2
Yesterday's Games		
Miami 135, Phoenix 129		
Cleveland 91, Milwaukee 73		
Utah 101, Houston 94		
Dallas 107, San Antonio 102		
Portland 107, Indiana 105		
New York 109, Hawks 105		
Boston 115, New Jersey 111		
Oklahoma City 88, Washington 83		
Chicago 110, Golden State 88		
Memphis 118, LA Clippers 95		
By The Associated Press		
LOCAL SCORES		
NAVY HILL BASKETBALL STANDINGS		
Dollar Days	10	1
Docomo	8	2
RBC Rollers	8	3
Taco Bell/KFC	7	3
MBI	6	3
Inchcape	6	3
Athlete's Foot	6	5
Uncle Ben	5	6
IT & E	4	6
San Antonio Shooters	2	9
670 Rollers	1	10
Mobil	1	10
SML BUDWEISER STANDINGS		
Rock Steady	2	0
D'9ers	1	0
Masters	1	0
Ford Rangers	1	1
Tanapag Falcons	1	1
Korean Phoneix	0	2
Young Guns	0	2
BUDWEISER CAGING STANDINGS		
CNMI Nationals	7	1
IT & E	7	3
Ol'Aces	6	3
Diamond Auto Fixers	3	5
Quichocho Law Office	3	6
Docomo	3	6
Runnin' Rebels	2	7
BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS		
Men		
DCCA	17	0
Beach Boys	11	3
Freedom Air	12	3
Docomo	12	4
CPA	10	3
No Zone	11	5
Joeten Motor Jets	11	4
Legislature	10	6
P&S	6	7
CRM/DEQ	6	8
POI	7	7
DLNR	6	9
CHC	4	9
PSS	5	9
Customs	4	12
PIC	3	10
CUC	3	9
Law & Order	3	10
Mayors	3	12
Hopwood	0	14
Women		
NMC	9	2
CUC	5	4
Finance	6	4
DCCA	5	7
CHC	1	9

Wellness tops Monday Night League

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
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REPORTER



Pacific Wellness Center emerged champion in the 7th season of the Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Monday Night League.

Wellness closed out the season last Feb. 9, with a win-loss record of 42-30 and the top place allowed the team to pocket \$375.

The awards ceremony was held last Monday, March 2, during the opening round of the league's 8th season at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Anchored by Ferdee Generoso, Lala Taitano, Tony Verdager, Orly Ebuén, Yho Villavicencio, Paul Pangelinan, and Jesus Sugue, Wellness also managed to snatch two second place finishes in the special team awards.

In the individual awards, Ebuén was adjudged as the most improved player in the men's category after upping his average to 12.83 pinfalls.

Zimbuka/Mabuang Ko finished second overall with 41 wins and 31 losses, same as third placer Team Familia.

Zimbuka earned \$260 for the runner-up finish.



Members of champion team Pacific Wellness Center receive their trophies and prizes for the 7th season of the Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Monday Night League during a simple awards ceremony last March 2 at the Saipan Bowling Center.

One of its players, Carol McKenzie, was the most improved player in the women's division after a 17-pin hike on her average.

The other members of Zimbuka/Mabuang Ko are Raphael Zapanta, Rose Abejo, Mhel Regis, Marion McKenzie, Thom McKenzie, May-Anne McKenzie, and Jun Abejo.

Team Familia pocketed \$200 for its

third place finish. The team is led by Lynn Teregeyo, who snatched two individual awards.

She was first in the ladies with high series scratch with her 591 pins and first in high average (172.56 pins).

Her teammates include Dennis Teregeyo, Roman Tudela, Ralph Torres, Sr., Israel De Leon, Albert Palacios, Judy Torres, and Lito Teodoro.

SSC Invitational, Ocean Swim this weekend

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



CNMI and Guam swimmers will have a busy weekend, as they compete in the 2009 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Meet and the SSC Oceania Swim.

SSC will be hosting the Invitational this today and tomorrow at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi, while the 31st edition of the annual ocean swim competitions will take place on Sunday at Saipan World Resort.

Around 80 swimmers from Saipan and Guam are expected to participate in the two tournaments. Three swim clubs from Guam—Manukai, Tarakito and Typhoon—are coming over to Saipan to challenge SSC and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan bets.

The Invitational will start at 3:30pm today and will continue on Saturday with the first session beginning at 8am and the second at 3pm.

SSC ruled last year's Invitational after collecting 938.5 points. The hosts got 578.5 points from its male swimmers and 360 from female bets.

Two swimmers make their second turn on the buoy during last month's SSC Meek & Mighty Swim at Pacific Islands Club. This weekend SSC will be hosting the 2009 Ocean Swim at Saipan World Resort.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Guam Typhoons scored 520 points to finish second, while Tsunami Saipan placed third with 457. Guam's Manukai Athletic Club was fourth with 456.50 points, followed by Tarakito Swim Club, 328, and Tsunami Swim Club Guam, 309.

Last year's SSC Ocean Swim drew 85 participants with Manukai's Danielle Atoigue topping the 600-meter race and SSC's Maxi Braig winning the 1,000-m swim.

Benjie Schulte of Tarakito finished first in the 1,300-m swim, while Tsunami Saipan's Rezne Wong ruled the 2.5-kilometer swim.

Registration for this Sunday's ocean swim will start at 7am. Adult swimmers can enter either the 1.3k or the 2.5 race.

Age group swimmers will have their assigned distance. The 8-and-under will swim in the 600-m race, 1k for 9 to 10 age group, 1.3k for 11 to 12, and 2.5k for 13 to 14 and 15 to 19 age groups.

Participants who will register before race day will pay only \$30. Entrance fee to be paid during the race day is \$35. Swimmers will receive race T-shirts and admission to the awards banquet. Interested participants who do not wish to join the banquet will only pay \$15.

"Early registration is encouraged. Applications can be picked up at the Kan Pacific pool from 4pm to 6pm or by e-mailing coach@saipanswimclub.com," SSC treasurer Lisa Kimball said.

9th PIC Tennis Championships to start March 27

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
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REPORTER



Preparations are now underway for the 9th Annual Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships that will be held in two separate playing dates for singles and doubles.

The singles matches in the men's, women's, and juniors divisions will be played from March 27 to 30, while the doubles matches in the men's, women's, juniors, and mixed will be from April 3 to 5.

The singles categories will include three men's divisions (open, 4.0, and 3.0), two women's divisions (open

and 4.0), two boys divisions (14-and-under and 10-and-under), and two girls divisions (14-and-under and 10-and-under).

Doubles play will consist of three men's divisions (open, 4.0, and 3.0), two women's divisions (open and 4.0), two boys divisions (14-and-under and 10-and-under), two girls divisions (14-and-under and 10-and-under), and two mixed divisions (open and 4.0).

PIC sports manager Lindsey Sosovec said cash prizes are guaranteed for the champion and runner-up in both the singles and doubles open divisions.

All the other winners and finalists will receive prizes courtesy of sponsors that include PIC Saipan, Pacific Trading Co. (including Gatorade and

Pepsi), Island Apparel, Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, and Rota Resort.

Entry fee is \$15 for singles events and \$20 per team for the doubles.

All participants will be provided waterpark passes to help them relax between matches.

Interested players can get entry forms at the PIC Information Desk, Tennis Center, and American Memorial Park tennis courts from 9am to 6pm daily.

Deadline for submission of entries for the singles events is until 5pm on March 22, while the deadline for the doubles will be at 5pm on March 27.

Sosovec can be contacted at 235-6231 ext. 5147 for more information or email her at sportmanager@pic-saipan.com.

Mix Breed was fourth with its 40-32 win-loss mark and got \$100, while Bicol Express completed the Top 5 with its 39-33 record, good for a prize money of \$50.

Super Fafa failed to make it to the Magic Five but it topped all the special team awards.

The team was first in high game scratch with 866 pins for \$40. Host SBC was second with 849 for \$30.

Super Fafa was also first in high game with handicap (2,482) for \$45, while Wellness was second (2,293) for \$35.

In the high series with handicap, Super Fafa had 2,615 for \$45, while Wellness finished behind with 2,596

for \$35.

Edward Baluyan and Robert Talavera both of Super Fafa took the one-two position in men's high game scratch with 275 and 268 pins, respectively, while Gigi Zapanta was first in the ladies with 219.

Baluyan also topped the high game with handicap (297), Boy Corbito of J's Restaurant placed second (288), while Zapanta was on top again in the ladies (257).

Talavera came first in the high series scratch for men with 726, while Alex Caddac of SBC was second with 657.

Talavera likewise led the high series with handicap with his 741, Raul Dumapit of Super Fafa was second with his 721, and Zapanta was first in the ladies with her 699.

In high average, Talavera prevailed with his 200.72 average.

Athlete's Foot secures playoff berth

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Athlete's Foot sealed the seventh playoff spot in the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League after pulling off a come-from-behind win over Rollers Basketball Club, 87-83, Tuesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Athlete's Foot ended the regular season of the 12-team league with a 6-5 record, allowing the team to join Dollar Days, Docomo, Rollers, KFC/Taco Bell, MBI, and Inchcape in the playoffs. With Athlete's Foot stunning the Rollers, Uncle Ben (5-6) and IT&E (4-6) are now left to battle for the last playoff seat.

The Rollers controlled the game most of the way before Athlete's Foot made a move in the fourth quarter.

Behind by a hair at the end of the third period, 63-64, Athlete's Foot's outscored the Rollers in the payoff canto, 24-17, with Chris De Vero firing 11 points in the final quarter.

De Vero finished with a game-high 30 points. He and Nate Mateo started Athlete's Foot's comeback in the second half. The duo combined for 19 of Athlete's Foot's 27 points in the third quarter to move their team within one after trailing by seven at halftime, 36-43.

Mateo tallied 25 markers, while George Masga also finished in double figures with 10 points.

Manny Matagolai scored 18 points for the Rollers, who capped their regular season campaign with an 8-3 record for third place in the team standings.

In the first game, Inchcape edged Docomo, 82-75, to improve to a 6-3 slate and tie MBI in fifth place.

Inchape drew double figures from

five players with Peter Mendiola leading the way with 21 points. Sonny Ranola chipped in 16, Manuel Ajoste and Amor Casabuena contributed 15 apiece, and Francis Rebuyon added 11.

Mendiola had seven first-quarter points, while Ranola and Rebuyon had five each, as Inchcape took a 25-12 lead after 10 minutes of play.

Docomo made little headway in the second quarter behind Clifford Hamor's 11 points and Ryan Sanciango's six markers to move within eight at halftime, 34-42. But Inchcape broke the game wide open in the third period increasing the lead to 24, 74-50. Casabuena, Mendiola, and Ranola joined forces in the third-quarter breakaway combining for 28 of Inchcape's 32 points.

Docomo tried to mount a comeback in the fourth quarter, but fell short, dropping the team to an 8-2 record and keeping them in second place behind league-leader Dollar Days (10-1).

First Game

Inchcape 82 – Mendiola 21, Ranola 16, Casabuena 15, Ajoste 15, Rebuyon 11, Garcia 3, Olivos 2.

Docomo 75 – R. Sanciango 31, Hamoy 15, Miranda 10, Rasa 10, Chan 4, Tengco 2, Cultura 1.

Scoring by quarters: 25-12, 42-34, 74-50, 82-75.

Second Game

Athlete's Foot 87 – De Vero 30, Mateo 25, Masga 10, Sablan 8, Fernandez 5, David 3.

Rollers 83 – Matagolai 18, Santos 15, Iguel 14, Tudela 11, Reyes 9, J. Camacho 8, A. Camacho 4, P. Camacho 2, Ulloa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-24, 36-43, 63-64, 87-83.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Athlete's Foot forward Diego Masga defends against Rollers Basketball Club's Albert Camacho in their 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League game Tuesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.



Unhappy return for Shaq, as Heat top Suns

Dwyane Wade gave Shaquille O'Neal plenty of wins with the Miami Heat. Wade wasn't being cooperative this time with O'Neal in an opponent's jersey.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Wellness tops PBA-Budweiser Monday Night League

Pacific Wellness Center emerged champion in the 7th season of the Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Monday Night League.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lady Ayuyus share title with ex-teammate

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Although Chelsea Ruluked left the Lady Ayuyus last year after helping Kagman win back-to-back titles, coach Francis San Nicolas said she was still part of the team's three-peat in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League this season.

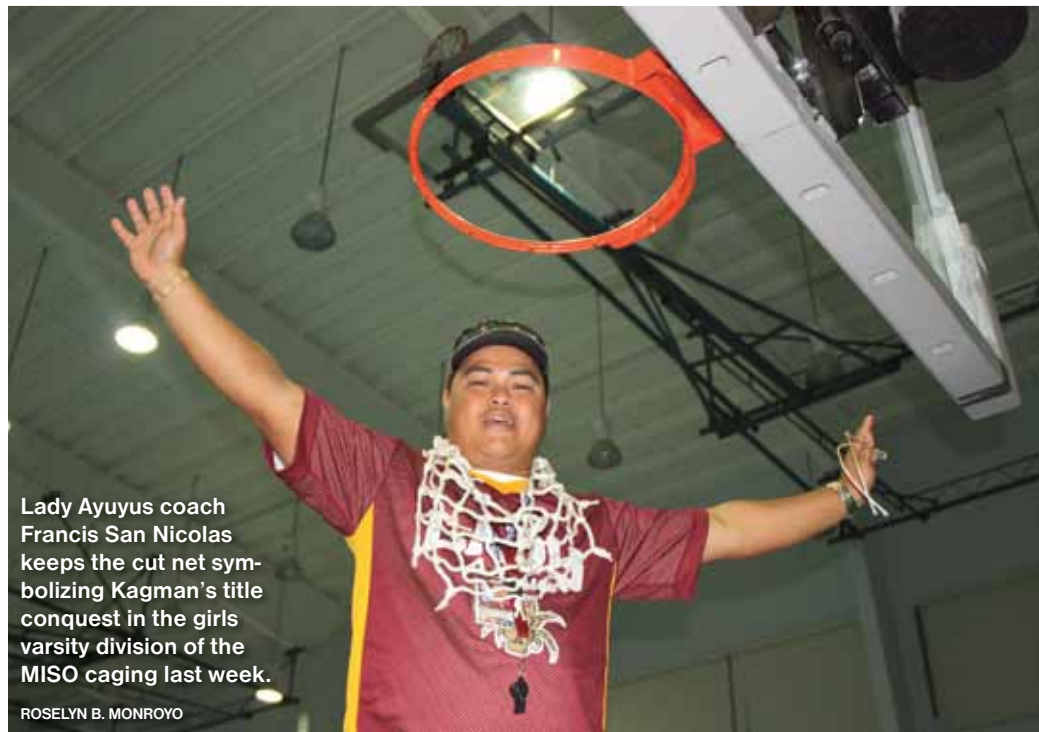


"We really missed her on the team and on the court. We played hard in the finals for her and we would like to share this victory with her," said San Nicolas a few minutes after the Lady Ayuyus' 56-47 triumph over the MHS Dolphins in the title rematch Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

"I believe when Chelsea knew we were in the finals, again, she wished she was with us to cheer for the team and support us. But she was with us in spirit," San Nicolas added.

Kagman's nine-point win over MHS was the

See LADY on Page 34



Lady Ayuyus coach Francis San Nicolas keeps the cut net symbolizing Kagman's title conquest in the girls varsity division of the MISO caging last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Korean, Japanese pros test mettle against Americans

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Four Korean and four Japanese professional beach volleyball players will test their mettle against a strong field of Americans led by Olympic gold medalist Phil Dalhausser in today's exhibition games that spice up the 17th Marianas Cup at the Pacific Islands Club.

Matches will start at 5:15pm and is open to the public at the PIC beach sand courts.

The opening game will be between Japan's Shinako Tanaka and Hiromi Suzuki against the tandem of Korea's Ji Yuon Jung and Mi Hwa Shin.

This will be followed by the match between the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Phil Dalhausser, 2008 Beijing Olympics beach volleyball gold medalist, answers a student's question during a visit Wednesday at the Saipan Community School.

U.S. pair of Jennifer Snyder and Jenelle Koester and the Japanese women's team.

After that, the Koreans and the Americans will battle it out at 6:15pm.

There will be intermission numbers during the net change as well as raffling of prizes.

In the men's play, Dalhausser will team up with Paul Baxter and the duo will go up against the Japanese tandem of Shimpei Aoki and Yasuo Nakaya.

The Japanese will then play against Korean pros Kyung Su Shin and Su Min Jun.

The finale exhibition play will be between the Americans and the Koreans at 8pm.

Korea's 27-year-old Jun stands 6'3" and graduated from Kyunghee University. He plays with the Incheon Hyundai Steel team and placed

See KOREAN on Page 34

Falcons, Rangers win but Rock Steady keeps lead

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Tanapag Falcons and Ford Rangers finally barged into the win column, but Rock Steady remained on top of the

heap in the 2009 Saipan Major League.

Joab Jones issued 13 strikeouts in eight and a half innings as the Falcons clawed their way to a 5-2 victory over the Young Guns Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Right fielder Niko Martin sparked the Falcons' offensive thrust with two runs on a 1-for-4 performance at the plate.

He was struck out in his first try in the bottom of first but advanced to first base on a hit by pitch in the fourth inning. Martin went for a steal to second base before reaching home plate on two pass balls for the Falcons' first run of the game.

The second run came from third baseman Mike Pangelinan who scored on a double from first baseman Manny Evangelista in the top of fourth.

Then in the fifth inning, Pangelinan drove home two runners with a grounder to right field. His two RBI single highlighted the Falcon's first win in two starts this season.

After that, Evangelista made his second hit of

See FALCONS on Page 34



Tanapag Falcons' Mike Pangelinan attempts to advance to second after he made a two RBI single in the fifth inning.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Phil my cup, please

Imagine Tiger Woods coming to Saipan (actually, he has been here but only at the airport) and playing in the St. Jude Parish Fundraising Golf Tournament. And you are his partner in a two-man best-ball format at Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Or LeBron James coming to play in the Gualo Rai two-on-two outdoor challenge. And he's on your team.

Or Roger Federer coming to play in the Coconut Classic at American Memorial Park. And he's your doubles partner.

Something like that is going to happen this weekend to some lucky dude picked to partner with Phil Dalhausser in the Marianas Cup at the Pacific Islands Club.

The world's No. 1-ranked beach volleyball player suddenly became a national television sensation en route to an Olympic gold medal in Beijing.

As soon as his plane lands, he's the tallest guy on Saipan.

Now he's here to play on the sands of San Antonio with anyone who has 1) ten bucks and 2) lots of luck. Think raffle.

For as great as 2008 was for Dalhausser, he could not win the Marianas Cup. My interpretation of that is simple: winning the Olympics is easier than winning the Marianas Cup. Drink some of that!

For the record, Paul Baxter and Randy Steele won the championship last year. Phil took fourth place with Chris Nelson.

Action starts tonight with a pro exhibition. Two top Japanese men are here. Two top Korean men are here. USA is, huh, well-represented.

Baxter is not Dalhausser's regular partner but they have played together, including their first appearance in the Marianas Cup in 2004 and last year's blistering, sand-popping performance. Expect them to play world class beach volleyball, best ever seen on any beach in Micronesia. Put that in your coconut!

Japan is represented by Shimpei Aoki and Yasuo Nakaya. Korea brings Kyung Su Shin and Su Min Jun.

Jennifer Snyder, who could play center on any men's basketball team on Saipan, and Jenelle Koester are the USA women.

Japan has Shinako Tanaka and Hiromi Suzuki. Korea sends Ji Youn Jung and Mi Hwa Shin.

Things get more interesting Saturday and Sunday when the pros team up with local wannabes with prizes on the line in front of an overflow cheering crowd of weekend sandy maniacs cooked in sun and beer.

There are six pros to be raffled off each for men and women players who can buy as many \$10 tickets as they want. Those will be the teams playing for the championship. As we have seen in the past, any team with a pro is capable of winning it all.

Whoever said "the best things in life are free" may have been talking about the Marianas Cup since the event is free to the public.